INDIANA HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

VOLUME IX

GOVERNORS MESSAGES AND LETTERS

VOLUME II

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1922

Governors Messages and Letters

MESSAGES AND LETTERS

OF

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

[CONCLUDED]

Indiana Historical Bureau
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INDIANAPOLIS 4, INDIANA

JOHN GIBSON

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THOMAS POSEY

VOL. II
1812-1816

EDITED BY
LOGAN ESAREY

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INTRODUCTION

Volume II of the "*Messages and Letters*" of Indiana Governors includes the remainder of the papers and correspondence of William Henry Harrison; the messages and letters of Acting Governor John Gibson, 1812-1813; and Governor Thomas Posey, 1813-1816.

This is the first time the official papers, relating to this period of Indiana history, have been collected, edited and published. The expense of collecting these documents has been borne by Indiana University, which has the originals or photographic copies, and the Indiana Historical Commission has paid for their editing and publication.

JOHN W. OLIVER,
Director Indiana Historical Commission.

State House
Indianapolis
October 16, 1922.

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Harrison to Secretary of War

Vincennes 1st Jan, 1812

Har. Pa. 567

Sir:

My friend Thomas Randolph Esq. who fell in the late action [Tippecanoe] acted as Judge Advocate of a Gen. Court Martial which sat at this place last spring and from the suggestions of one of the officers he made out an account and drew upon you for $156 in favor of Messrs. [Peter] Jones and [Touissant] Dubois of this place. The Draft was protested but the account has since been settled by the Accountant and the sum of 78 Dollars allowed him which has been transmitted here by the Treasurer (since Randolph's death) in a treasury Draft payable to Mr. Randolph's order. It was his intention that Messrs. Jones and Dubois should receive whatever was allowed him (as they had actually advanced him the $150 upon his draft) and they received authority from him to take out of the office and open the letter which he expected to receive from the accountant and appropriate the money which it was expected to contain to their use. But as the Draft was payable to Mr. Randolph's order they can make no use of it. They have therefore applied to me as the nearest friend of Mr. Randolph who has for several years made a part of my family to devise some mode for their relief. I can think of none that is likely to answer the purpose but to request you to accept the Draft of Mr. R. to the amount of Seventy-eight Dollars and pay the money to the bank to which it has been assigned. For this purpose I have the Honor to enclose the Draft of Mr. Randolph on you and the Treasurers Draft for 78 Dollars.

Mr. Randolph's affairs were so deranged and his property of so little value that it is not thought proper to administer upon it. His wife has been in a state of mental derangement for many months. His nearest friends have recommended to me to adopt the measure which I am now taking with regard to his claim on the War department.

I have the Honor to be with Great Respect Your
Humble Servant

William Henry Harrison

The Hon. William Eustis Esq. *Sect. of War*

Harrison to Secretary of War

Vincennes 1st Jan, 1812

Har. Pa. 567

Sir:

My friend Thomas Randolph Esq. who fell in the late action [Tippecanoe] acted as Judge Advocate of a Gen. Court Martial which sat at this place last spring and from the suggestions of one of the officers he made out an account and drew upon you for $156 in favor of Messrs. [Peter] Jones and [Touissant] Dubois of this place. The Draft was protested but the account has since been settled by the Accountant and the sum of 78 Dollars allowed him which has been transmitted here by the Treasurer (since Randolph's death) in a treasury Draft payable to Mr. Randolph's order. It was his intention that Messrs. Jones and Dubois should receive whatever was allowed him (as they had actually advanced him the $150 upon his draft) and they received authority from him to take out of the office and open the letter which he expected to receive from the accountant and appropriate the money which it was expected to contain to their use. But as the Draft was payable to Mr. Randolph's order they can make no use of it. They have therefore applied to me as the nearest friend of Mr. Randolph who has for several years made a part of my family to devise some mode for their relief. I can think of none that is likely to answer the purpose but to request you to accept the Draft of Mr. R. to the amount of Seventy-eight Dollars and pay the money to the bank to which it has been assigned. For this purpose I have the Honor to enclose the Draft of Mr. Randolph on you and the Treasurers Draft for 78 Dollars.

Mr. Randolph's affairs were so deranged and his property of so little value that it is not thought proper to administer upon it. His wife has been in a state of mental derangement for many months. His nearest friends have recommended to me to adopt the measure which I am now taking with regard to his claim on the War department.

I have the Honor to be with Great Respect Your
Humble Servant

William Henry Harrison

The Hon. William Eustis Esq. *Sect. of War*

BURTON TO HARRISON

VINCENNES Jan 5, 1812

Har. Pa. 570-571

SIR:

By sentence of A [General] C. Martial in July 1810 Capt. [William C.] Baen was suspended from ranks pay for one year, previous to which he was entitled to a Majority. His suspension in all probability prevented his being promoted the last session of Congress. This suspension of Capt. Baen suspended my promotion for the same time, as I should have succeeded to the Command of his Compy. Capt. Baen being unfortunate in the action of Nov. 4th 1811 [killed] leaves the vacancy to which he was entitled to be filled by a Capt of the 4th Regt and of course a Subaltern of the same Regt. will fill the vacancy caused by the promotion of the Capt.—This Sir denies me of rank, pay as Capt. from May or June 1810 to Sept. 1811—not through my falt (I hope) but the misfortunes of Capt. Baen. I have thought proper to submit the above statement to your consideration and should consider it as an unfeigned [?] favor if you would have the goodness to represent the same (with your interest on the subject) to the proper department.

I am with sentiments of esteem respectfully

Sir your Humble Servt.

O. G. BURTON *Lt. 4th Inft.*

WM. H. HARRISON Esq. *Governor of Indiana Territory*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

VINCENNES, 6th Jan. 1812

Har. Pa. 568-569

SIR:

The ardent desire which I feel to some [of] those brave men who fought under my command in the late action with the Indians may be the occasion of my giving you more trouble than I ought to do, But the motive which governs me will I am persuaded, with you, form a sufficient appology.

From the enclosed letter of Lieut. [Oliver G.] Burton [see Jan. 5, above] of the 4th Regiment it appears that he is likely to suffer materially in his rank by the unfortunate fall of Captain Baen. If it were possible consistently with the rules

which govern such cases to date Mr. Burton's commission as captain from the day that the majority became vacant to which Captain Baen would have succeeded it appears to me that it could not be considered an injustice toward any other person. Lieut. Burton is a sober steady industrious and Brave officer.

Captain James Hunter[1] who commands an uniformed Light Infantry Militia Company in the town of Louisville Kentucky wishes to become a captain in one of the Infantry Regmts which are about to be raised. Capt. H. entered as a private volunteer in the company which was raised by Col. Guiger for the late Campaign in the neighborhood of Louisville and acted after he joined the army as adjutant to the Mounted Riflemen. I am not very well acquainted with Capt. Hunter but I have no doubt of his making an good officer. He behaved extremely well in the action & was wounded in the arm.

I Have the Honor to be with great Respect
Sir Your Humble Sevt.

WILLIAM H. HARRISON

Hon. Sec. WILLIAM EUSTIS Esq. *Secy. of War*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

VINCENNES 7th Jan. 1812

Har. Pa. 572-575

SIR:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 11th ultimo. It gives me great pleasure to find that the galland conduct of the troops which, fought under my command in the action with the Indians is so justly appreciated by the Government. They are certainly deserving of all the praise which has been bestowed upon them. As I am fully convinced Sir that you take an interest in the fame of all the persons who served upon that occasion I must beg leave to call your attention to the enclosed declaration [Jan. 8, below] of a considerable majority of the officers of the 4th Regiment and to the separate certificates of several of them. [Dec. 21, 1811, above] By these it will be seen how far the late action de-

1. James Hunter was born in Kentucky; served as adjutant in Capt. Guiger's company at Tippecanoe; appointed captain in the 17th Infantry Mar. 12, 1812; discharged honorably June 1, 1814. Congress voted him a medal Feb. 13, 1835, for gallantry at the Siege of Fort Stephenson.

Lossing, *War of 1812, 502*

serves the epithets of complete surprise "Horrible butchery". It will be seen also that notwithstanding the suddenness of the attack, the companies which were first fired on were in such a state of preparation that the officers were enabled almost to complete the formation of them before they sustained any injury and that it is a matter of great uncertainty whether the Indians derived the least advantage from their perfidy. With respect to the ground upon which the troops were encamped altho it was favorable to the approach of the Indians from the quarter upon which the attack was commenced it united every other advantage excepting that of a sufficient space of firm ground for Cavalry to act upon. This was only to be found upon the two flanks. In fact not a single impediment presented itself not a bush or a tree to be found for a very considerable distance. Covered indeed with long grass and too soft for cavalry to charge upon but sufficiently firm for any evolution of Infantry. This the Indians well knew and they withdrew from the front to the flanks as soon as day light began to shew itself. I have the Honor also to enclose herewith a paper containing some resolutions adopted by the Company of Kentucky Volunteers who served under Col. Guiger. This company and Captain Bartons were the two which received the first fire of the enemy. My reason for troubling you with them is to show you the opinion they entertain of the man [Judge Henry Vanderburgh] "by whose unexampled imprudence their comrades were butchered." I must confess that I have ever believed until corrected by a late conversation with Captain Barton and Lt. Gooding that their company suffered much more severely before they were formed than I now find they did and hence the observation in my official account of the action that several of the men had to contend with the enemy in the doors of their tents. I believe that a solatary instance of the kind only occurred and that in Guiger's Company.

Captain Snelling arrived at this place from Fort Harrison some days ago and shortly after him some Wea chiefs bearing a speech from the Kickapoos and Winnebagos the same in substance with that which I had the honor to transmit by the last mail. The Captain says that he was informed confidentially by a Wea Indian that the Disposition of the Kickapoos and Winnebagos was by no means such as they wished

us to believe. That many of them still retained their confidence in the Prophet who had assured them that his want of success in the late action was caused by and accident of an uncommon kind.[1] That many of them believed that they would all die as soon as the Prophet was put to death. He further said that he had heard some of them declare that if their offer to make peace was not speedily accepted and themselves relieved from the miserable situation in which they were placed that they were determined to make the white people suffer also by attacking the frontiers. It is but just however to observe that the Kickapoo Orator warned the captain not to place entire confidence to every thing that the Miamis asserted whom they (the Kickapoos) believed to be their worst enemies. My own opinion however is that the repentance of the greater part of them is not sincere and that they regret the want of success rather than the commission of the crime.

I have the Honor to be Most Respectfully Sir
Your Humble Servant.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

The Hon. WILLIAM EUSTIS Esq. *Secty. of War*

[Endorsed] Vincennes 7th Jan 1812 Gov. Harrison inclosing sundry statements from the officers relative to the battle of Tippecanoe, rec. Feb 6th 1812

REPORTS BY OFFICERS

VINCENNES Jan 8, 1812

Har. Pa. 576-582

The Battle of Tippecanoe having terminated a campaign which led us to victory and honor, it is with pain we behold aspersions in the public prints aiming to destroy the confidence of our country in our late commander in chief. [See Dec. 21, 1811, above]

Governor Harrison having relinquished the command of the army lately employed against the Indians and probably as an officer left us forever the present statement cannot be attributed to servile flattering but to true and honest expression of our real sentiments in favor of a General whose talents,

1. This unfortunate accident to the Prophet's plans was caused by his wife thoughtlessly touching the vessel containing his sacred beans, deer hoofs and other talismans.

military science and patriotism entitle him to a high rank among the worthy of the Union and whom we consider injured by the gross misrepresentation of the ignorant or designing who are alike inimical to the best of Governments and the best of men.

We therefore deem it our duty to state as incontestible facts that the Commander in chief throughout the campaign and in the hour of Battle proved himself the soldier and the general; that on the night of the battle by his order we slept on our arms, and rose on our posts, that notwithstanding the darkness of the night and the most consummate savage cunning of the enemy in eluding our sentries and rapidity in rushing through the Guards we were not found unprepared; that few of them were able to enter our camp and those few doomed never to return; that in pursuance to his orders which were adapted to every emergency, the enemy were defeated with slaughter almost unparaleled among savages. Indeed one sentiment of confidence respect and affection toward the commander in chief pervaded the whole line of the army which any attempt to destroy we shall consider as an insult to our understandings and an injury to our feeling. Should our Country again require our services to oppose a civilized or savage foe we should march under command of Governor Harrison with the most perfect confidence of victory and fame.

ISAC COOK *Capt. 4th Inft.*
JOSIAH SNELLING *Capt. 4th U. S. R. Inft.*
R. C. BARTON *Capt. 4th Inft.*
O. G. BURTON, *Lieut. 4th Inf.*
N. F. ADAMS *L. 4th Reg. Inft.*
CHARLES FULLER *Lieut. 4 Reg. Inft.*
A. HAWKINS *Lieut. 4th Inft.*
GEORGE GOODING *2d Lieut. 4th Inft.*
H. BURCHSTEAD *Ensign*
JOSIAH D. FOSTER *Sergt. 4 In*
HOSEA BLOOD *Acting Asst. Sergt. of 4th Regt.*

ADAMS' STATEMENT

Har. Pa. 577, 578

I certify on honor that on the evening on the 6th of November that the field officers were assembled for orders and that

the watch word was given as usual that it had been a standing order for the men to sleep on their arms with their accoutrements on, that though and attack was not expected proper precautions were used to prevent a surprise, that at the commencement of the attack I attended Governor Harrison to the left of the rear line where the firing was heaviest, that Capt. Barton's Company had formed under the fire of enemy and Brown's Wentworth's and Cook's companies were formed that the Governor ordered Cooks and Wentworths company to form a line across the Camp and when formed ordered to march up to support Capt. Burton where they silenced the fire of the enemy, that the companies of the Front and Right flanks had time to form before the attack and those of the left flank though more suddenly attacked completely checked the progress of the enemy. That as Adjutant of the army I attended the Commander in Chief during the engagement except when carrying his orders or seeing them executed which gave me and opportunity of seeing every part of Camp and knowing the state thereof.

NATH F. ADAMS *Lt. 4th Regt. of Inft. Adj of the Army under Comm of Gove. Harrison*

BARTON'S STATEMENT

FORT KNOX Jan. 8, 1812

Har. Pa. 578

I certify that on the night of the action of Tippecanoe, the company under my command (composed of my own and late Welch's) lay on their arms completely prepared for battle. That at the moment of alarm one Sergt. and two privates were up renewing the fires, and that the word was instantly passed to turn out, which was readily obeyed. That while in the act of forming the Indians who had gained the brow of the hill about 12 to 15 paces on my right, commenced a fire upon us. That one Corporal was killed as he stepped from the right tent, one corporal and one private killed and one Sergt. wounded in the act of forming. The remainder of the wounded in my company (say seveteen) occured after we were completely formed and had opened a heavy fire upon the Indians.

ROBT. C. BARTON *Capt. 4 Inft.*

Gooding's Statement

Fort Knox Jan. 8, 1812

Har. Pa. 579

I George Gooding Lt. of the 4th Reg and Commanding the late Capt. Welch's company, while in the action of the 7th of Nov. was attached to Capt. Barton's company do certify on honor that the above statement of Capt. Bartons contains sincerely my opinion of the situation of the company when the attack was made upon it. I also certify that I saw the first fire that was made by the Indians on Capt. Geigers Company (which was with ours) and that the fire was immediately returned by that company.

Cook's Statement

Fort Knox Jan 8th 1812

Har. Pa. 579

Honored Sir:

Agreeably to your wish and a duty I owe to my commander and the rest of my brother officers I shall give you a correct and impartial statement of the position of the company under my command on the night of the 6th and morning of the 7th of November. The situation of my company being in the centre of the left line and it happened to be the most advanced place in the line. At or near 4 o'clock in the morning I was alarmed by the discharge of a gun on which I immediately reported to my company where I found my men all paraded at their posts. The position of the men during the night together with myself while at rest was lying on our arms with all our clothes on—as for myself I lay with my boots a great coat and accoutrements buckled to me with my rifle in my arms. At the report of the gun I had no more to do than to throw off my blanket put my hat on and go to my company who were eight or ten steps from my tent, the time possibly might have been one or two minutes where I found every man as above mentioned. In this situation I remained a few minutes when I received orders from the Commander in Chief or one of the Aids, I am not certain, to march my company up to the right of the left line to reinforce which I immediately obeyed. In this position I remained be the time more or less until day light when I received the second order from the

Commander to march my company to the extreme right to support that place which I immediately did and on my arrival I found it necessary to make a charge which was done with success immediately after the fire ceased, three cheers were given by the army and that closed the battle—then received orders to return to the tents.

I have the Honor to be with Great Repsect

Your Excellency's Most Humble Servant

ISAC COOK *Capt 4th Reg. In.*

His Excy GOV. HARRISON

SNELLING'S STATEMENT

VINCENNES, Jan. 8th 1812

Har. Pa. 580-581

At the close of the late campaign such a general sentiment of respect and confidence in the Commander in Chief pervaded the whole army that I did not expect any measure would be necessary to support his reputation or vindicate his conduct, but since my arrival in Town I have been informed that persons actually by sinister motives have attempted like assassins who walk in the dark and stab unseen, to blast his character and destroy the confidence placed in him by Government and the people. As no defense on his part can avail against accusers who shun the light and who while they do the injury are studiously careful to conceal the quarter from whence it came it becomes the duty of every friend to Governor Harrison, to honor and justice, to come forward with such statement of facts within their knowledge as will tend to make the truth appear and silence the tongue of slander. On the night of the 6th of November preceding the late action, the company under my command slept on their arms with their cartridge boxes on in obedience to a general order I had received some nights before and which had not been countermanded. I was awakened by the firing of the first gun, seized my sword and ran to the door of my tent where I met the orderly sargeant of my company who asked me if the company should form in front or rear of the tents. The men were then in rear and recollecting that the light of the fires in front would expose them to the fire of the enemy and probably occasion some confusion, I directed them to form in rear and

counter march to the front. The whole time occupied in forming could not have exceeded four minutes and I had faced to the right for the purpose of marching them to their place in the line, when Gov. Harrison rode up and ordered me to cover the left flank of the encampment where the Riflemen of Major Robb had fallen back—Not perfectly knowing the position I requested him to show me the ground he accordingly rode with the company and pointed out to me the post I should occupy and it was not until formed in this position that we received the first fire of the enemy. In this situation I had an opportunity of hearing the order given Major Davies to charge the enemy and saw the unfortunate effect of it, the fire growing warmer I called to Col. Boyd who was near and asked his permission to charge he authorised me to do it but seeing the Governor approach I repeated the question to him and received his orders before I moved the company and I am fully confident that every movement of my company during the action was made by his orders given in person.

Unbiassed by hope of favor and perhaps acting in a manner by some thought not so favorable to my personal interest I thought free to make the above statement from a sense of duty and love of justice and I trust that while I retain a consciousness of having acted from such motives it will fully compensate me for any personal inconvenience I may sustain.

J. SNELLING *Capt. 4th U. S. Reg Inf.*

LARRABEE'S STATEMENT

FORT KNOX, Jan 8th 1812

Har. Pa. 581

SIR:

I have the honor to state agreeably to your Excellency's request the situation of the company under my command on the night of the 6th of November 1811 and at the commencement of the action on the morning of the 7th.

At the commencement the Company were at rest in their lines with their clothes and accoutrements on their guns lying by their sides loaded and Baynets fixed and were by my order paraded in line of battle—ready to meet the enemy within forty seconds from the commencement of the action all of

which was performed one or two minutes before a man of the company was wounded and am very

respectfully your Excellency's Obt. Sevt.

C. LARRABEE *Lieut. 4th Inft. Coms. Comp.*

GOV. HARRISON

I do hereby certify that the foregoing seven certificates were correctly copied by me from the Originals.

H. HURST

TAYLOR ON THE CAMP

Feb. 22, 1817

Dawson, *Harrison, 208, 209*

The above account, taken from M'Affee's History of the War in the Western Country, as it relates to the situation of the camp occupied by the army under the command of Governor Harrison on the night between the 6th and 7th of November, 1811, is entirely correct. The spot for encampment was selected by colonel Clarke, (who acted as brigade-major to the general Boyd) and myself. We were directed by Governor Harrison to examine the country up and down the creek until we should find a suitable place for an encampment. In a short time we discovered the place on which the army encamped, and to which it was conducted by us. No intimation was given by the Indians of their wish that we should encamp there, nor could they possibly have known where the army would encamp until it took its position. The only error in the above extract is, in saying that major Clarke and myself were sent back, by which it would appear that the army retrograded to take up its encampment; this is not the fact; the army filed off in front of the town at right angles to the Wabash, to reach its encampment. It has ever been my belief that the position we occupied was the best that could be found any where near us, and I believe that ninetenths of the officers were of that opinion. We did not go on the Wabash above the town, but I am certain that there was no position below it that was eligible for an encampment.

WALLER TAYLOR

Snelling on the Camp

Washington February 28, 1817

Dawson, *Harrison, 209*

'My situation as a platoon officer prevented my having a personal knowledge of the transactions above related, so far as respects the selection of the encampment of the army under General Harrison by his staff officers: but having carefully perused the extract from M'Affee's history, I have no hesitation in saying that I believe it to be substantially correct; and that, in my opinion, the ground on which the army encamped combined the advantages of wood, water, and a defensible position, in a greater degree than any other ground in that section of the country; the ground on the Wabash was wholly unfit, the highland being destitute of water, and the interval (or bottom land as it is called) being without wood, and incapable of being defended.

J. Snelling
Lieutenant-Colonel 8th Infantry

Harrison to Secretary of War

Vincennes, 14th Jan. 1812

Har. Pa. 583-584

Having seen a letter from Mr. [John] Johnson the late Indian agent at Fort Wayne published in many of the Western papers[1] in which he asserts that there were but 350 Indians in the late action and finding that it had occasioned great irritation amonst the Troops who served on the campaign I have thought proper to procure the deposition of Mr. [John Baptiste] LaPlante to show the number of Indians that were with the Prophet late in the month of August when La Plante left the town. It is agreed by every one that the whole of Winemac's party of the Potawatomies fought against us and it is also equally well known that he received a considerable reinforcement of Kickapoos and Potawatiomies from the Illinois river a very few days before the action. The 450 which he had with him agreeably to the Delaware account some time

1. In an Extra of the *Liberty Hall*, printed at Cincinnati Jan. 3, 1812, is a report by an express from Fort Wayne containing rumors from Tippecanoe. Also in the *Ohio Sentinel* of Piqua, but most of the news came from the Louisville, Frankfort and Lexington papers.

before the action were those whom they saw in the principal Town where the Prophet lived and did not include those which were hunting (and Mr. LaPlante says that there were always fifty out) nor those which must have been left in the other Villages dependent upon the Prophet. Of these there are three and one of them fifteen miles distant. Laplante had a much better opportunity of ascertaining the number than the Delaware chief as he had for many years resided there and there spent the greater part of the last summer. Indeed he did not leave the town more than four weeks before the Troops marched from this place. The Delawares on the contrary were but a very few days at the Prophets town and had never been there before at least not since the Prophet's establishment commenced. Capt [Josiah] Snelling had also taken much pains to ascertain from the Indians he has seen at Fort Harrison the amount of their force he examined four or five different persons and marked down the numbers of each tribe as given by each of those persons. Upon adding them as he found that the accounts varied from 560 to 702. Upon explaining this difference to the man who furnished him with the smaller number he observed that he had enumerated only the great warriors whereas the others had included some that were old and others that were two young to fight well. From the above circumstances it is impossible to believe that there were less than seven hundred Indians in the late action. Indeed the warmth of their fire and the length of their line, indicated a greater number. What could have induced Mr. Johnson to publish an account so false it is difficult to determine. He seemed indeed to have been governed by a most singular infatuation in giving credit to everything that was said to him by the Indians. But the most extraordinary part of his conduct is that in sixteen days after action he was replenishing the powder horns and pouches of many of those Indians whom he knew to have been engaged in it. I sincerely believe however that his conduct proceeded from no bad motive or principle but from error of judgment.

I have the honor to be With great respect Sir

Your Humble Servt.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Honble. WILLIAM EUSTIS *Secty. of War*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT, January 17th, 1812

Dawson, *Harrison*, *260*

SIR,

Your Excellency's letter of the 24th December, with its enclosure has been received. Accounts have also been received from Mr. [John] Johnson and Mr. [William] Wells, which are contradictory in their nature, and not calculated to produce any useful result. In one thing they agree, namely, that the chiefs had been invited, or permitted, to meet you at Vincennes.

As it is peculiarly desirable at the present crisis, that measures should be adopted to re-establish the relations of peace and friendship with the Indians, I am instructed by the President to communicate to you his intention to receive, at the seat of government, such of the chiefs, as, in your judgment, it may be expedient to send for that purpose: and that Tecumseh, with his brother the prophet, or either of them, may be among the number. The manner and the terms on which this is to be effected, must depend upon their situation, conduct, and disposition, of which, as it is impossible for the President, from the information before him, to form a satisfactory opinion, your Excellency will judge.

It may be intimated to them, that the President is justly and highly offended; and that he has it in contemplation, to raise a large force in the spring of the year, to drive beyond the great waters, all those who have been or shall be found in arms; that in doing this the innocent may suffer as well as the guilty, as it may not be in the power of his officers to distinguish the one from the other; that they will, in that case, have brought a great calamity upon themselves, which he is desirous they should avoid for their sakes, if it be possible; that he cherishes a sincere regard for his red children, and is willing to receive and to hear such of them as desire it, and are sincere in heart.

The Winebagoes, Potawatamies, and those of the other tribes who joined, or have been connected with the prophet, must return to their respective tribes. The President will forgive them, provided they remain at home and are peaceable.

The President, being authorized by law to raise six companies of rangers for the protection of the north-western

frontier, will proceed to the appointment of the officers, who will be instructed to enlist their men, and to hold them ready for immediate service. One object in raising this force, is to admit of the removal of the 4th regiment to a scene of greater action, as soon as circumstances and the season will allow.[1]

Should there, at the time of receiving this letter, be sufficient cause in your judgment to require a variation or delay of the course herein proposed, you will be pleased to advise this department, and in the mean time, adopt such measures as the public interests may require.

With sentiments of respect, sir, your Excellency's Ob't sv't.

W. EUSTIS

His Excellency Gov. W. H. HARRISON, Vincennes

SNELLING TO HARRISON

FORT HARRISON January 18th 1812

Har. Pa. 585, 586

SIR:

Peter the Indian who has for a long time been an inmate of this garrison returned yesterday from a hunting expedition he has for some time been engaged in with a party of the Miamis. He was accompanied by an Indian called Jem, and sometimes "Five" who reported that it was the determination of all the Indians to go to War with the United States, that they told him it was true the United States had a great many warriors, but when they were united they would also have many and that he might expect some hard fighting in the Spring. He also informed me that Stone Eater, (who promised when he left this place that he sould return and tell me how your Excellencie's message was received) told the Miamis

1. This act was signed Jan. 2, 1812, providing for not to exceed seven companies of about 70 men each to patrol the frontier.

Annals, 12 Cong. II, 2228, 2345

Two companies were organized in Ohio, Jan. 17. On Feb. 11 a company was formed at Vincennes, Parmenius Beckes, Capt., Walter Wilson, 1st Lieut., Thos. Scott, 2d Lieut., John Batthis, ensign. May 5, 1812 Joseph Brown, 1st Lieut., and Samuel Little, 2d Lieut., were added to the Indiana rangers. Apr. 12, 1813, three companies of rangers were provided for. In the First Williamson Dunn was Capt., Henry Brenton, 1st Lieut., Henry Ristine, 2d Lieut., David Hillis, 3d Lieut., Green B. Fields, ensign. In the Second Pierre Andre, Capt., Hyacinth Lasselle, 1st Lieut., Homer Johnson, 2d Lieut., John Hadden, 3d Lieut., David Gregg, ensign. In the Third, appointed April 30, James Bigger was Capt., John Carr, 1st Lieut., James Curry, 2d Lieut., William P. Meredith, 3d Lieut., John Owen., Jr., ensign. May 20, Frederick Shoults was appointed a captain, but of which company is not stated. These seem to be all the appointments made by the president to the ranger service in Indiana at this time.

if the Kickapoos and Winnebagos did not like it, he would neither return to Fort Harrison or Vincennes and concluded his address to them in these words "My Brothers if the Kickapoos and Winnebagos will not accept of the terms offered them let us fight and die altogether." Wishing to obtain all the information I could on the subject I called in and examined Peter who corroberated the story told by the other, he said he believed their intentions were bad, but suspecting him of partiality to the Whites they were guarded in their conversation before him. He added that a Pottawattamie Indian called the White Pidgeon, had been with the Miamis with a message from Fort Malden the purport of which he could not discover, that he was now gone to the other tribes and was coming to this garrison in about thirty days, for the purpose as he expressed it "of looking at us," that many of them were preparing for a journey to Fort Malden where they expected to receive rifles and ammunition and they declared it was their intention to commence hostilities in the Spring when the corn was about two feet high, which he expressed by holding his hand that distance from the ground. [See Feb 10 below]

I must confess Sir I feel myself placed in the predicament either of being thought too credulous and ready to give an ear to every idle story or on the other hand of withholding information of the greatest importance to my country. I have however determined to communicate all the information I receive, wishing your Excellency to understand that I do not give implicit confidence to all the stories I hear, neither do I entirely discredit them. I have directed Peter to go out in pursuit of further intelligence and shall use all other means in my power to obtain correct information. Should I receive your Excellencie's commands to that effect I will secure the White Pidgeon or take such other measure as may defeat the object of his visit. In speaking of the Miamis I wish your Excellency to understand that those commonly called Eel river Indians are meant.

I have the honor to be with the highest respect

Your Excellencie Obt. Sevt.

J. SNELLING *Capt 4th Inft. Com Ft. Harrison*

His Excellency WM. H. HARRISON *Governor of Indiana*

P. S. I wish in addition to inform your Excellency that Peter directly charges your *friend* Mr. McIntosh and Tom Jones

with being engaged in a treasonable correspondence with the British agent at Ft. Malden. If I can obtain any information which may enable you to unmask the traitors it will be my pleasure as well as duty to do it.

DETACHMENT ORDERS

U. S. Detachment Main Quarters,
VINCENNES, January 21, 1812

Burton, *Historical Collection, 180*

In taking leave of this command which I am authorized to do by the Honorable Secretary of War, permission of the 12th ult., and to which my private concerns in New England compel me I cannot suppress the regret I feel in separating myself for a time from a Corps eminently distinguished for bravery in the field, for the proud honor of its officers and its perfected state of discipline.

Whenever it appeared consonant with the principles of duty, it has ever been my aim to make accommodation a pleasing part in the regulation of my conduct and to give satisfaction to those who I have had the honor of commanding while a faithful and independent discharge of my duties has been a prominent and anxious wish.

I cannot now take leave of the Regiment and rifle company whose happiness is indivisibly blended with my own without remindin them in the strongest terms of the necessity of rigidly persevering in the cultivation of harmony the slightest relapse from which growing out of trifling differences between members of the same Corps, indulged, producing party rancour, and discord too often becomes epidemic and diseases the whole, let me recommend that *Esprit de Corps* which makes a whole body tenacious of its reputation and solicitous to preserve it unsullied from the Colonel down to the Private.

The command of the United States troops in this Territory devolves on Lieut. Col. James Miller of the 5th Regiment Infantry who will be pleased on assuming the same to report to the War Department.

The support and zealous cooperation of Lieut. Col. Miller while Major in bringing the 4th Regiment to its present state of discipline has merited and commands applause and it would be an omission of Justice not to place this testimony on record.

JNO. P. BOYD, *Col. 4th Regt. Infy.*

Detachment Order

Vincennes, January 24, 1812

Burton, *Historical Collection, 181*

In obedience to Colonel [John P.] Boyd's order of the 23rd inst., Lt. Col. Miller assumes the command of the U. S. Troops in the Indiana Territory, and directs the orders now in force to be strictly adhered to until further orders.

Signed James Miller, *Lt. Col. 5th Regt. Infy.*

Little Turtle to Harrison

Fort Wayne, 25th January, 1812.

Dawson, *Harrison, 258*

Governor Harrison:

My friend—I have been requested by my nation to speak to you, and I obey their request with pleasure, because I believe their situation requires all the aid I can afford them. When your speech by Mr. [Touissant] Dubois was received by the Miamies, they answered it, and I made known to you their opinion at that time. Your letter to William Wells of the 23d November last, has been explained to the Miamies, and Eel river tribes of Indians.

My friend—Although neither of these tribes have had any thing to do with the late unfortunate affair which happened on the Wabash, still they all rejoice to hear you say that if those foolish Indians which were engaged in that action would return to their several homes and remain quiet, that they would be pardoned, and again received by the President as his children. We believe there is none of them that will be so foolish, as not to accept of this friendly offer; whilst, at the same time, I assure you, that nothing shall be wanting on my part, to prevail on them to accept it.

All the prophet's followers have left him, (with the exception of two camps of his own tribe) Tecumseh has just joined him with eight men only. No danger can be apprehended from them at present. Our eyes will be constantly kept on them, and should they attempt to gather strength again, we will do all in our power to prevent it; and at the same time give you immediate information of their intentions.

We are sorry that that peace and friendship which has so long existed between the red and white people, could not be preserved, without the loss of so many good men as fell on both sides, in the late action on the Wabash; but we are satisfied that it will be the means of making that peace which ought to exist between us, more respected, both by the red and the white people.

We have been lately told, by different Indians from that quarter, that you wished the Indians from this country to visit you; this they will do with pleasure when you give them information of it in writing.

My friend—The clouds appear to be rising in a different quarter, which threatens to turn our light into darkness. To prevent this, it may require the united efforts of us all. We hope that none of us will be found to shrink from the storm that threatens to burst on our nations.

Your friend,

MISCHECQUOCQUAH, or LITTLE TURTLE
For the Miami and Eel river tribes of Indians

Witness:

WM TURNER
Surgeon's Mate, U. S. Army

I certify that the above is a true translation.

W. WELLS

PETITION FROM MADISON

January 28, 1812

Mss. Indiana State Library

To his Excellency william henoery harrison Governor of the Indiana teritory, the citizens of the town of Madeson humbly shueth unto your Excellencey that theay haive Graite neede of a nother Magustrate in this plaice for to Discharge the ordinary bussness of this town and a Greeable to owr request we the underseigners Do recommend our Worthey friend Abraham T. fisk to your Excellencey to sarve us as a magustrate if you Excellencey will Gratify your patitioners request in

this purticular theay will feall them selves in duty Bound to pray

Patitioners Names

this 28th Day of january 1812

Charles Eastin
David Vancleave
Phil Eastin
William Downey
Abraham Smocke
Jacob Smock Senr
Jacob Smock Junr
Jacob Yunt
Tno Ryker
Gevardus R. Robbins
Jacob kelly
John Storm
Lewis Waggener
Leonard Barnes
Samuel Hensley
benjanen Devason
Robert Marchus

[date written on outside, Feb. 23.]

Harrison to Secretary of War

Vincennes 29th Jan. 1812

Har. Pa. 587, 588

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favours of the 25th and 26th Ult. with their enclosures.

The Honorable mention which the President has been pleased to make of my own, and the conduct of the Troops I commanded in the late action amply consoles me for all the falsehoods and calumnies of hireling and party writers. My warmest thanks are due to the President for the good opinion of me which he has been pleased to express and to you Sir, for the polite manner in which it has been communicated. [December 18 and 19, 1811, above]

The Presidents approbation of and his thanks for their good conduct have been communicated to the several corps which served upon the campaign in a general order.

I have the honor to enclose a copy of a letter lately received from Capt. Snelling. [Jan. 18, above] It is almost impossible to select the truth from tha mass of falshood and inconsistency with which information derived from Indians always abounds. I know the Peter mentioned by the Capt. and I do not think that implicit credit is due to what he says. —However he has always been on our side.

The people whose horses were stolen last Spring, and in the spring of 1810 by the Potawatomies, and Kickapoos, who were attached to the Prophet are very clamorous for compensation. Permit me to recommend that $500 be stoped out of the annuity of each of those Tribes to satisfy those claims. I also beg leave to recommend that half of the Piankeshaws and as much of the Kickapoos annuity be confiscated by the Government in consequence of their having permitted their warriors to join the Prophet and make war upon us. Considerably more than half the Kickapoos were with him and nearly half of the Piankeshaws. The Potawatimies, ought also to be made to suffer for their conduct—but that tribe is so large that the annuity which they now receive is not sufficient for them.

I am with great respect Sir

Your Humble Servant.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

The Honorable WM. EUSTIS Esq. *Secretary of War*

WILLIAM WELLS TO SECRETARY OF WAR

FORT WAYNE, 10th February, 1812

Am. Sta. Pa. Indian Affairs I, 805

At the request of the Little Turtle, I enclose you his speech to Governor Harrison, of the 25th ultimo. [See Jan. 25 above]

On the 12th ult. two British emissaries passed through this neighborhood, on their way to see the Prophet. On the 21st ultimo. they called at my house, on their return to Malden; they were two Munsey Indians. It appears that their business was to invite all the Indians to meet at Malden very early in the spring. What took place between them and the Prophet, I have not as yet learnt. [See Jan. 18 above]

The Pattawatamy chief, Marpack, has been in the neighborhood of Malden since August last; he now is near the white

settlement on the river Raisin, in Michigan territory, and visits Malden every eight or ten days. He has about one hundred and twenty of the best warriors in this country with him, stationed in such a manner as to be unobserved by the whites; that is to say, eight or ten in one place, fifteen or twenty in another, and so on; but within such distance of each other, as to enable him to collect them all in twenty-four hours. I know this chief is hostile inclined towards the United States, and have no hesitation in saying, that he is kept at that place by the British agents at Malden; and in case the United States have war with that Power, this chief will attack our settlements immediately. I believe many of the warriors that fought Governor Harrison, have, and are now about to join him. [Extract]

WILLIAM WELLS

CHARLES MEHL TO MARTIN MEHL, TIPPECANOE

VINCENNES Knox County Indiana Teritory
Febuary the : 10 : 1812
Mss. in State Library

DEAR UNCLE I take this opertunity to inform you That My father Received your leter of the twenty Fourth of July : 1809 and to let you know that We are all in good health and I hope these few Lines will find you and your famely in the same State of health and we are extremely sorry to Here of the death of our friends and Relations And to inform you of the time that my Uncle Charles Mehl left this place is almost Imposable to me at this time but I believe that [mutilated] time in March 1808 and the [mutilated] he was then in was nothing perticu—[mutilated] he had money when he left this place [mutilated] to bear his expense but he had not [mutilated] Journey until he got in a [mutilated] money was stolen from him [mutilated] some men that ware going to Kentucky and met with an oppertunity of Working at his trade he was there some time and in what Situation he left that I Cannot inform you I now undertake to inform you of the battle that Was fought on the seventh of November 1811 Between the White people of this place and the Neighbouing indians, Consisting of Shawaynoes Potawatamies Pyankeshasos Kickapoos and Winebagoes Which Was Commanded by the Shawaynoes Prophet And which bandity Consisting of from six to seven

Hundred which had combined on the Wabash river And have been here too or thre different times to Take the town But on there aproach to this place The people knowing there intentions the militia Were Called together and stationed in the town Which prevented any hostilaties from taking place It being agreate injury to our Country the People resolved to disband them from that Place We Randavozed on the seventeenth of September last and marched the twenty third With about nine hundred men Commanded by Governor Harison proceded about sixty miles Up the wabash and built [mutilated] Purpose of leaving the sick & proceded ab [mutilated] thirty Miles farther & built a Block house [mutilated] the purpose of protecting our boats [mutilated] sick Then proceded to the proph [mutilated] of November past the [mutilated] A mile from the [mutilated] of Holding a conference the next morning but in vain the next morning at fourocloc to our Surprise the indians began to play on our sentinals The Battle Comec:d the indians were in the Camps as soon as our men the guard on the Left flank not doing there duty the indians Were in the lines before the men were formed in A line of battle But nevertheless they sustained But little dammage before they were formed The fireing Continued for too hours and fifteen Minutes without intermision During Which time we lost many of our dearest Friends and best Citezens the number of whites That fought in the battle did not excede seven Hundred and fifty the loss sustained was one Hundred and eighty eight kiled and wounded Of white people the loss of indians is said to be Upwards of too hundred the indians defeated and Left the ground we did not pursue them until the Next morning we went to the town and found it Avacuated and we burnt there town and Returned Home without further interuption [mutilated]

My best Respects to you and your famely and Relations I shall expect an answer as soon as time will permit and only add that I Am your ever well wisher

CHARLES MEHL

To Mr. MARTIN MEHL

Snelling to Harrison

Fort Harrison, February 17th, 1812

Har. Pa. 591, 592

Sir:

On the afternoon of the day I last wrote you [See Jan. 18, above] Little Eyes accompanied by Laprousier came to the Garrison, returned me the enclosed package and said that the young man whom he sent the Second time met some Indians who told him it was not necessary to carry it, that there was to be a general peace and of course it would be of no service; he therefore had brought it to me, that I might deliver it to your Excellency. They informed me that the Indians were about to assemble in the neighbourhood of Tiermans [Creek] from whence they would proceed to Vincennes.

They staid in the Garrison that night and in the evening Laprousier told Mons. Broullette the Indians were well assured that the President disapproved of your Excellencies conduct towards them, and as soon as they have settled the terms of an and accomodation a deputation of two from each tribe, would start for Washington to seek redress of their great Father.

In addition to this Peter who has been with them some time informs me he learned that when Laprousier, White Pidgeon, and some others were at Vincennes last Spring they had a Council at midnight in the house of Joseph Basidon where McIntosh and Thomas Jones attended, and an Indian called Piankeshaw Dick[1] acted as Interpreter. That the Wea Chiefs at the instigation of McIntosh signed a Declaration setting forth that their lands had been taken from them without their consent, which declaration has been prewarded [?] to the Indiana delegate [Jennings] to be made use of as occasion required. McIntosh told them he had been a great sufferer having lost Four Thousand dollars for speaking in their behalf and they promised to indemnify him should they recover their lands. Jones was also to be rewarded with a tract three miles square bounding on Raccoon Creek. They were to have a new

1. Piankeshaw Dick or Pop-in-Dick was an Indian who had been reared by Thomas Jones, the gunsmith for the Indians at Vincennes. John McGowan, a young man from Pennsylvania, also worked at the shop. Pop-in-Dick burned his foot on a piece of hot iron for which he blamed McGowan. Later, May 1812, he killed McGowan at his home at the ferry over White river at Hindostan.

Mss. by Dr. Wm. McGowan, Oaktown

Governor and this was to be (in Indiana) the Golden Age. I cannot but be diverted at these Indian stories and communicate them to your Excellency rather to be laughed at, than treated seriously.

I have the honor to be with the Highest Respect

Your Excellencies Obt. Servt.

(Signed) J. SNELLING

His Ex. WM. H. HARRISON

The packet mentioned in this letter was a dispatch for the agents at Fort Wayne which the Wea Chiefs promised to have carried to them.

W. H. H.

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

VINCENNES, 19th February 1812

Har. Pa. 590, 591

SIR:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th Ultimo. [above]

I have been in expectation of the arrival of some of the Kickapoo, Winebago and Miami Indians for some time past at this place. I apprehend that they have been stoped by the severity of the weather. When they do arrive I shall take measures for making a proper selection of Chiefs for the proposed visit to the Seat of Government. If they accept the invitation it will be conclusive evidence of their peacable disposition. I do not believe however, that either the Prophet or Tecumseh can be prevailed upon to go, not at any rate without our giving a hostage for their safety. Shall this be done? I could perhaps get M. Laplante to take upon himself that character. The information received from Governors Howard [Mo.] and Edwards [Ill.] does not indicate a peacable disposition amongst the Indians of that quarter. There is no certain mode of obliging them to remain quiet but by intimidating them.

The collection or the appearance of a collection of Volunteers or Militia would answer this purpose. But it is vain to threaten them unless they see something of the danger. I think it is probable that the Prophet will wait until he hears

what success Tecumseh has met with in raising the other Tribes before he will submit. It is my fixed opinion that if the Regular Troops are withdrawn without being replaced by other troops the Indians will again commence Hostilities, unless we can prevail upon some of the Influential Chiefs to set out to Washington before the Troops move.

I have the honor to be with great Respect

Sir Your Humb. Sevt.

WM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble WILLIAM EUSTIS Esq. *Secy of War*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

VINCENNES February 26th, 1812

Har. Pa. 593, 594

SIR:

I have the honor to enclose you the copy of a letter received last week by express from Capt. Snelling [Feb 17, above], on the 25th Inst. another express arrived from him which brought the information of the arrival at his post of Eighty Indians, deputies from all the late hostile tribes [are] (the Shawanoes excepted) on their way to this place. They have not yet arrived being detained as I imagine by High Waters. I have sent up [Joseph] Barron the Interpreter to meet them on the Frontiers to learn the number of each particular tribe, to know of the Chiefs why they have brought so large a number of their warriors and to propose to them either to send back to Fort Harrison all but a few Chiefs from each tribe or that the whole of them should deliver up their arms. Prudence required that something of this kind should be done, particularly as I have received a hint from a young man of the Delaware tribe to be on my guard against them. The anecdote of the meeting mentioned in Capt. Snelling's letter is no doubt founded on fact.

Finding that there was very little lead at Fort Knox and being desirous to have a quanity of fixed amunition prepared, I purchased about ten days ago 1,000 lbs. and drew on in favour of Messrs. Jones & Dubois for one Hundred Dollars

the amount of the purchase. The lead has been delivered to the Quarter master of the 4th Regiment.

I have the honor to be with great respect
Sir your Humble Sevt.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

The Honble WM. EUSTIS *Secretary of War*

P. S. I have this moment received a dispatch from Gov. Edwards covering extracts of letters from Gov. Howard and from [Nicholas] Boilvin and [Maurice] Blondeau Indian Agents on the Mississippi all of whom appear to be appehensive that the Winnebagoes intend to attack our settlements. They have no doubt written to you on the subject. If the party which is now on its way from Fort Harrison have no treacherous intention the Winnebagoes will certainly make no trouble until their friends are there.

W. H. H.

WELLS TO SECRETARY OF WAR

FORT WAYNE, 1st March 1812

Am. Sta. Pa. Indian Affairs I, 806

In my letter of the 10th ultimo, I informed you that the Indian chief Tecumseh, had arrived on the Wabash. I have now to state to you, that it appears that he has determined to raise all the Indians he can, immediately, with an intention, no doubt, to attack our frontiers. He has sent runners to raise the Indians on the Illinois, and the upper Mississippi; and I am told has gone himself, to hurry on the aid he was promised by the Cherokees and Creeks.

The Prophet's orator, who is considered the third man in this hostile band, passed within twelve miles of this place, on the 23d ultimo, with eight Shawanese, eight Winnebagoes, and seven Kickapoos, in all twenty-four, on their way as they say to Sandusky; where they expected to receive a quantity of powder and lead, from their father the British. [Extract]

WILLIAM WELLS

JENNINGS TO ————

WASHINGTON CITY 6th of March 1812

Mss. in State Library

Dr. SIR

We have been so long in a state of uncertainty as it respects Peace and War, that I have scarcely any thing new to give you. Measures preparatory to War still occupy the attention of Congress almost entirely, insomuch at least that the Territories appear to be almost forgotten—But I shall do every thing in my power and I hope something of advantage for the Territory before this Session rises. Only let our friends hang together and the day is ours.

I have many assurances that we shall get rid of Harrison by some means or other, but keep this to yourself by all means, although I shall be very much deceived if you do not find it true, before nine months—on this subject you shall hear from me again after a little while—

I enclose you a map of the Territory from which you will be able to discover the inginuity of H——n to keep the seat of Government at Vincennes by making very small purchases of the Indians on the Eastern part of the Territory and very large purchases on the Western part—in order to get the great body of population on the Wabash River and its waters—

Keep [James] Dill out of the Legislature if possible—

I am your friend unchangably

JONATHAN JENNINGS

GEORGE HUNT TO HARRISON

Wayne County (I. T.) NEAR SALISBURY March 17 1812

Mss. in State Library

MOST EXCELLENT SIR—Since I received your friendly and interesting letter dated 17 of December last I have wrote but as our letters are generally intercepted a repetition I hope you will excuse—I obeyed your Order Respecting the Second Major in the 8th Regt. James Brown was re-elected altho' it was with some persuasion that his name cou'd run He is a decent young Man I commissioned him immediately—We want a number of Commissions Still for the Regt. Observing the provision in the late act for a Colo—I ordered an Election—I send you enclosed the Certificate we want a Commission for

John Smith and one for Absalom Harvey Ensign—A Captains Commission for John Ireland—In the course of the summer we shall probably want commissions for a Battallion on the west fork of White Water The above Named Officers His Excellency will please to Commission as they are Now in Service Majr Hanna will be a safe hand to bring them together with any Commands he may send me

We have had some Stir here about the remonstrance handed in to Congress by my friend Jonathan [Jennings] against Govr. Harrison.[1] some of the party have denied assigning it, therefore I have wrote on to my friends in Congress to send me a Certified Copy with all the names annexed intending to publish it as soon as it reaches me I assure you Sir, I want to know the enemies of my country, for God knows we have hard rubbing here but I hope the worst is over, the sons of 76 (or rather those in that Spirit) Still have the ascendency and I think our side is growing while I hope we may safely Compare the party of Honest Jonathan to the House of Saul—We here are waiting to know who will be our candidate for Congress in the Next election, we are looking toward Knox—Jennings is Very busy sending letters here but I see none of them but he has lately wrote that you were "anxious to have a command in the Army & if so you must resign your appointment as Govr." &c &c. &c. A number of things beneath my notice—& certainly—your—I will only observe that from the Treatment you have received since the Battle we should

1. Jennings seems to have been unusually active during this session. A large part of his work pertained to relief for debtors in the land department. Practically nothing was accomplished beyond the extension of time of payment three years. Act of Apr. 23, 1812.

Dec. 24, 1811, he moved to request the President to lay before the House any information he may have had verbal or otherwise relative to the situation in Indiana. This was read and laid on the table. Dec. 24, 1811, the petition of the soldiers was presented by the speaker. This was referred to a general committee on the Tippecanoe campaign, Jennings is not mentioned in connection with this business. Jan. 1, 1812, Jennings presented a petition for statehood. This was referred to a select committee of which he was chairman. Jan. 13 the speaker presented a petition from James Dill and Peter Jones of the Indiana legislature opposing statehood. This was referred to the same committee. On the same day Jennings moved that the Committee on Public Lands consider a donation of land for the county seat of a new county to be made out of Knox. Jan. 20, Jennings presented a petition complaining of the arbitrary conduct of Gov. Harrison—vetoing a bill for the removal of the capital. March 31 Jennings reported in favor of admitting Indiana. Apr. 23 Burwell Bassett, a congressman from Virginia, read a letter from Harrison defending himself. This with the petitions on motion of Jennings was referred to the Secretary of State. May 27 on his own motion Jennings headed a committee to consider dividing Indiana into two states. This committee reported by bill, May 28, in favor of division which passed the House June 1. Nothing seems to have come of all this bickering.

not have been surprised if your Excellency had resigned—But for Gods Sake leave us not if you can possibly Bear with us, we know Jonathans drift—I have no foreign News I am seriously afraid that our Government will not attend to the Widow and Orphan as well as the Officers & Soldiers under your Command, and if Neglected I certainly shall feel Cool myself—I Do not know whether Majr. [Joseph] Hanna or Mr Neely will Bear this to you—But as Mr. Neely has been with us, You will please inquire of him for particulars—please to give My Compliments to Mrs Harrison, Judge [Benjamin] Park & family Capt T. Jones & Family—with the friends of the Territory While yourself Sir shall receive my warmest acknowledgements for your favours & c &c I am yours at Command

GEORGE HUNT[2]

Govr. W. H. HARRISON

GEORGE BECK TO HARRISON

HARRISON COUNTY April 13th, 1812

Har. Pa. 596

DEAR SIR:

I conceive it my duty to inform you of a late murder committed on Driftwood on one Hinton supposed to be done by the Indians. Hinton went out to hunt his horses up Drift into the New purchase and stayed longer tham was expected the neighbours went to search for him and came on his trail and followed on to where they supposed he was killed, where they found a small piece of blue cloth and some pieces of rope they followed the trail on the bank of Driftwood where they threw him down the Bank. Just in the edge of the water he was stripped and scalped. He was found on Saturday last they supposed there were four men by their trails, they took off four horses with them. two men followed the trail to Sandy where they parted. They followed on one of their trails near two miles where they fournd that two of them came together. They thought it not safe to follow any further—Also two yound men are missing since Sunday week they were

2. George Hunt was a North Carolina Quaker. He came with his father and family to Wayne Co. in 1807, settling on Elkhorn and building a grist mill. In 1810 he was appointed Clerk of Franklin Co., and in 1814 Clerk of Wayne. He had early made the acquaintance of Jennings and his political methods.

Young, *History of Wayne Co., 149*

the sons of Rodgers. They went out to hunt horses without guns, and has not been heard of since. I am about to raise a few men to go out and see if I can find where they have gone. Capt John Beck[1] is the bearer of this letter.

I am with respect your friend

& Humble Servt.

(Signed) GEORGE BECK[1]

[Endorsed]
W. H. HARRISON

Copy of a letter from Major G. BECK to Gov. HARRISON.

SNELLING TO HARRISON

FORT HARRISON, April 14th, 1812

Har. Pa. 601, 602

SIR,

I have this moment arrived and I find the aspect of affairs so serious that I deem it necessary to advise you of it by express. The Miamis have abandoned their camp and gone off after robbing the Settlers of every movable article they posessed. They have previously in several instances been very insolent and their going off leads to strong presumption that they were accessory to the murders on the other side. Capt. [Parmenius] Beckes requests me to inform you that in obedience to your orders he followed the path to the house of Hutson where he ascertained that the murders had been perpetrated as reported, that he should have gone farther out but found that Capt. [Toussaint] Dubois had preceded him and therefore took his course to this place through the river bottom. The aspect of affairs on this side is so alarming that Captain Beckes has thought it proper with the advice of the officers at this post to wait further orders from you before he proceeds on his rout homeward, Stone Eater has recently been here and reported that many of the Indians, the Pottawattomies in particular are disaffected but let the result of their council be what it may he promised to give the earliest possible information. I pray you Excellency to pardon the stile of my

1. John and George Beck were early settlers of Harrison county, finally locating in what is now Washington county. They came from North Carolina, Jan. 17, 1809. John was appointed a captain and George an ensign in the Harrison county militia. Both perhaps served on the Tippecanoe campaign, John, with Berry's riflemen and George under Guiger with the Louisville mounted riflemen.

writing, the haste which is necessary renders it impossible to revise, correct and amend it.

With the highest respect, I have the honor to be your Excelly's

Most obt. Sevt.

(Signed) J. SNELLING, *Capt.*

P. S. Monsieur [Michel] Broulett had been sent to the upper camp about five miles from this by Lieut. [John] Smith previous to my arrival, he has just returned and reports that Laprousier and Negro Legs are there and profess total ignorance of the matter. It appears the party who committed the robberies on this side were headed by Little Eyes who went away four days since.

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

VINCENNES 14th April, 1812

Har. Pa. 597-599

SIR:

The persons for whom Commissions were forwarded as officers of the company of Rangers assigned to this territory were duly notified of their appointments.—Capt. [Parmenius] Beckes has accepted, but all the subalterns have declined. [Walter Wilson, Thomas Scott, John Batthis] I beg leave to recommend Joseph Brown as 1st Lieut and Samuel Little as Ensign. I have not yet selected a proper person to recommend for 2nd Lieut. [They were appointed May 5]

From the general aspect of Indian affairs I thought it proper to direct Capt. Beckes to complete his company as soon as possible and to call the whole of them into service. The 30 assigned to this county are enlisted. The remaining 30 were directed to be recruited in another part of the Territory and will be up in a few days under Messrs. Little and Brown, who will serve as Sergants until their commissions can be sent on.

It is with great regret that I inform you Sir that the hopes which I had entertained of our being able to avoid a war with the Indians are entirely dissipated.—The Prophet and his Brother were either altogether insincere in the professions which they made in February or they had been induced to adopt other politics in consequence of the probability of War between the United States and Great Britain. Messrs [John]

Shaw and [William] Wells have I presume informed you of the Grounds which they have for believing that they are again organizing a force for hostile purposes and I have now to communicate a most distressing and unequivocal proof of the existence of this disposition. On Saturday evening last a Mrs. Hutsons family consisting of his wife four small children and a hired man residing in the Illinois Territory about 35 miles above this place, was most cruelly murdered. The house was set on fire with the bodies of the woman and children in it and the young man whose body was most shockingly mangled left in the yard. There were only three Indians in the party. A detachment of Rangers are in pursuit of them but there is little probability of their being overtaken. I shall endeavour to asscertain the tribe to which these scoundrels belong but I have no hopes of their being delivered up. One of the most mischievious and successful of the Prophets schemes is that of destroying the influence of the Chiefs amongst the Pottowattimies and Kickapoos particularly. The young men are under no kind of control, each man does as he pleases, and we have in my opinion no alternative but War. The propriety of its being undertaken immediately and prosecuted with vigor is an opinion which pervades I believe the whole Western Country. In Kentucky and in this Territory I know that it does. The circumstance of some of the tribes being friendly and others not so will occasion great embarressment.

I hope to receive instructions upon this subject and the course that is to be pursued as early as possible. I shall proceed to put the frontiers in the best possible state of defence but no defensive measures can possibly be effectual against Indians. I observe that the President is authorized to call out any number of Militia but I suppose that ordinary Militia is meant. For such expeditions as an Indian War calls for (unless it is intended to take possession of any particular point or to occupy the county by a chain of posts) mounted men are absolutely necessary, of these I am authorized to say that as many as may be wanted could be procured in Kentucky and Tennessee in three weeks notice.

I shall execute your wishes with regard to the removal of Wells as soon as possible. At present he is engaged in effecting a meeting of the Indians at Mississineway under the auspices of the Turtle and the Five Medals. As these two

chiefs are particularly friendly to Wells and are certainly and unequivocally *on our side* it would I imagine be bad policy to remove him at this moment.

I have the honor to be Sir With great respect you
Most Obt. Servt.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

P. S. The captain of the Rangers or some other person there should be authorized to discharge men of that corps who are unfit for the service. It requires the best men and for the price that is given the best can be got. In spite of the vigilance of the officers some of a contrary description will be enlisted.

Honble. WM. EUSTIS Esq. *Secretary of War*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

VINCENNES 15th April, 1812

Har. Pa. 603, 604

SIR,

Last evening an Express arrived here with the letter of which the enclosed is a copy, [April 13 above]—the Driftwood Settlement [Vallonia][1] mentioned in it, is upon the South East Branch of the white river about 75 miles nearly due East from this place; the object of the Hostile Indians in committing murders in that direction is beyond all doubt to implicate the Delawares. I am really much embarrassed to know what steps it would be proper to take, to preserve the neutrality of that tribe and the Miamis. The one which appears to me most practicable is to get them to occupy the whole country, from the main branch of White River to the Boundary established by the Grouseland Treaty and oblige them to undertake to prevent the hostile Indians from committing any depredations in that direction. Something like this must be done or they must be entirely withdrawn from their present position.

I take the liberty to assure you, Sir, that there is not the least necessity for two companies of Rangers in the state of

1. Vallonia was settled by Kentuckians and Burr refugees in 1810. There were between 30 and 40 families in the settlement by 1812. For details of the Indian fighting on this frontier see *Ind. Mag. of Hist. X, 256;* Brownstown *Banner Aug. 26, 1874; History of Jackson County, 316;* and best, John Ketcham, *Autobiography.* Ketcham was one of the first settlers and writes from personal knowledge. [See end of 1812 below.]

Ohio, only a small point of their Frontier (in the neighborhood of Greenville) is approachable by the hostile Indians. No just apprehensions can be entertained of the Shawanoes on the Auglaize or the Wyandots of Sandusky—

I have the honor to be with great respect

Sir, your humble Servant,

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

P. S. 9 o'clock. An express has this moment arrived from Fort Harrison with the letter of which the enclosed is a copy. [April 14 above] There is no doubt but the Little Eyes therein mentioned was in the action and has long been in the interest of the prophet. His object is to force his tribe (the Miamis) to take a decided part on the same side.

Honorable WILLIAM EUSTIS, Esqr. *Secretary of War*

HARRISON GENERAL ORDERS

Headquarters, VINCENNES 16th April, 1812

Ind. Mag. of History II, 185

As the late murders upon the frontiers of this and the neighboring Territories leave us little to hope of our being able to avoid a war with the neighboring tribes of Indians, the commander-in-chief directs that the colonels and other commandants of corps should take immediate measures to put their commands in the best possible state for active service. The field officers who command battalions will visit and critically inspect the several companies which compose them and make a report in detail of their situation, particularly noting the deficiencies in arms, ammunition and accoutrements, and such measures as the laws authorize must be immediately taken to remedy those deficiencies. The commander-in-chief informs the officers that the most prompt obedience and the most unremitting attention to their duty will be required of them—the situation of the country calls for exertion on the part of the militia, and the officers must set the example to their men. If there are amongst them any who have accepted appointments for the mere motive of gratifying their vanity by the possession of a commission to which a title is annexed, without having the ability or the inclination to encounter arduous service, in justice to their country and to their own fame they should now retire and not stand in the way of

those who are more able or more willing to encounter the fatigue and danger incident to actual service in the Indian war. From the specimen which the commander-in-chief has had of their conduct in the field he has every reason to be proud of them, nor does he believe that there are better militia officers to be found anywhere than those of Indiana, but in a crisis like the present they should be all good.

The field officers are to see that proper places are appointed for the rendezvous of the companies upon an alarm or the appearance of danger, and will give orders relatively to the mode of their proceeding in such exigencies as the situation of the companies respectively call for. When mischief is done by the Indians in any of the settlements, they must be pursued, and the officer nearest to the spot, if the number of men under his command is not inferior to the supposed number of the enemy, is to commence it as soon as he can collect his men. If his force should be too small he is to send for aid to the next officer to him, and in the meantime take a position capable of being defended, or watch the motions of the enemy, as circumstances require. The pursuit must be conducted with vigor, and the officer commanding will be held responsible for making every exertion in his power to overtake the enemy. Upon his return, whether successful or not, a particular account of his proceedings must be transmitted to the commander-in-chief and a copy of it to the colonel of the regiment.

The commander-in-chief recommends it to the citizen on the frontiers of Knox county, from the Wabash eastwardly across the two branches of the White river, those on the northwest of the Wabash and those in the Driftwood settlement in Harrison, to erect blocked houses or picketed forts. It will depend upon the disposition of the Delawares whether measures of this kind will be necessary or not upon the frontiers of Clark, Jefferson, Dearborn, Franklin or Wayne. Means will be taken to ascertain this as soon as possible and the result communicated. The Indians who profess to be friendly have been warned to keep clear of the settlements, and the commander-in-chief is far from wishing that the citizens should run any risk by admitting any Indians to come amongst them whose designs are in the least equivocal. He recommends, however to those settlements which the Delawares have frequented as

much forbearance as possible towards that tribe, because they have ever performed with punctuality and good faith their engagements with the United States, and as yet there is not the least reason to doubt their fidelity. It is also certain that if they should be forced to join the other tribes in war, from their intimate knowledge of the settlements upon the frontiers they would be enabled to do more mischief than any other tribe.

By the commander-in-chief

A. HURST, *Aid-de-camp*

SNELLING TO HARRISON

FORT HARRISON, April 16, 1812

Har. Pa. 608, 610

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellencies letter of yesterday. You must, Sir, have misunderstood me if you conceived I thought it necessary for Capt. [Parmenius] Beckes to stay at the post, my reason for advising his waiting your orders here was, I imagined from the alarming reports I heard on my arrival, that you might think it necessary to detach him in a different direction from his original destination, this opinion was afterwards confirmed by a report of Negro Legs who informed me that the night before he was continually disturbed by the barking of dogs round his camp and in the morning he discovered a large trail going towards the settlements. Sergt. [Daniel] Baldwin who arrived the evening of the 13th also reported that he saw on the lower prairie three Indians who fled at the approach of his party and concealed themselves in the woods. In the afternoon of the 16th [?] I sent for the Wea Chiefs who were encamped on the creek five miles above, informed them of the murders committed on the other side and required that they should take such measures as were in their power to discover the murderers which they promised to do. I then spoke to them of the depredations on this side, affected to believe they were committed by the young men without their knowledge, represented the absolute necessity of restraining them, told them that next to murder the white people considered a violation of their property the greatest crime and that should they per-

sist in such practices they would inevitably be killed. They seemed to agree in opinion that the robberies were committed by Little Eyes and a party which went off with him a few days since but I am sorry to say that although my speech was delivered with all the gravity the occasion required it was treated by them with levity I never before witnessed. Laprousier particularly affected to ridicule the idea of killing them for stealing and frequently interrupted Monsieur Broulette with bursts of laughter. Negro Legs was much disturbed but spoke little and appeared to be very ill. Yesterday morning they came in great numbers to the garrison bringing apparently the proceeds of their whole winters hunt which they bartered with Broulette for such articles as he had for sale. The Squaw of Negro Legs told Broulette she was sorry to see him leave because she liked him very much and did not want the Crows to eat him which she thought would soon be the case, he was also told by Jem to be on his guard for the Shawanos would soon be after him. In the afternoon they generally went off but a few of them lingered about the gate and one attempting to pass in was stopped by the sentinel whose gun he seized but the sentinel instantly recovered it and gave him a severe cut across the face with the bayonet, his comrades were much enraged and expressed their determination to have revenge saying in a few days they would return with a great force and take the garrison, this day not an Indian has been seen. I have now Sir given you a minute detail of the incidents which have occurred since my arrival and your Excellency may be assured that every circumstance even the most trifling shall be communicated to you and I shall be extremely careful to guard against surprises. I have the honour to be with the highest respect Your Obt. Servant

J. SNELLING, *Captain*

His Ex. WM. H. HARRISON.

P. S. I had entirely forgotten to mention that when I informed them your Excellency would pay for as many rails as they wanted Lapresieur replied he thought they should not want any for he believed they would not plant any this season.

HARRISON TO DAVIS FLOYD

VINCENNES 17th April 1812

Har. Pa. 615-617

SIR:

Conceiving it to be a matter of great importance to keep the Delaware Tribe faithful to the United States I have thought it proper to send some person to them to ascertain their present disposition and to endeavour to arrange with the chiefs some plan to prevent them from being forced into war which it appears but too probable we are about to be engaged in with most of the other tribes. I have selected you for the purpose, the first and most desirable plan that has occurred to my mind is that the Delawares should unite with the Miamis, and any other of the tribes which remain faithful to us to drive off the Prophet and his party from the Wabash and to declare to the hostile tribes that they will not permit them to make war on this side of the Wabash. If the disaffection amongst the Miamis should be such as to render this plan impracticable, or the strength of the hostile confederacy so formidable as to render them unable to prevent them from crossing the Wabash, it would be desirable that they should occupy the country between the White River and the boundary of the Grouseland treaty and undertake to prevent any depredations from being committed in that quarter whilst the Shawnese of the Auglaize and the Wyandots of Sandusky should enter into the same engagements for the frontiers of Ohio adjacent to them. There is no other mode that I can think of which would effectually preserve their neutrality but that of removing to their friends on the Mississippi or joining the Shawnese of the Auglaize. You will be pleased to represent to them in the strongest terms the anxiety of the government to keep them clear of that ruin and destruction which the folly and wickedness of the other tribes will bring upon themselves. Their situation will however require the greatest care and circumspection and it is particularly necessary that they explain their intentions with the utmost frankness and truth and that they scrupulously perform what they promise. The strength of the United States particularly of the western part of it is such that they stand in need of no assistance to crush any combination that the Indians can form. But the situation of the Delawares and Miamies is such that it is ab-

solutely necessary that they should adopt some plan similar to those I have mentd. for if the hostile Indians are permitted to pass through their country to strike our settlements, in the pursuit of them our warriors will be unable to discriminate and our friends will in many instances suffer for the crimes of others at any rate our citizens who suffer from war parties which pass in the direction of the Delawares, and Miamis towns will become jealous of their fidelity and in all probability will attribute depredations to them of which they may be innocent. It is probable also that the hostile tribes will strike our settlements in that direction for the purpose of implicating our friends and I strongly suspect that the murder lately committed [Hinton] in the Driftwood settlement was intended to produce that effect. [April 13, above]

You will get all the information in your power, with respect to the designs of the Hostile tribes, and will endeavour to make an arrangement to have information of their movements regularly conveyed to me through some channel or other.

You will be allowed three dollars a day from the day of your departure from home until your return.

I am respectfully your Humbl. Servt.

WM. H. HARRISON

Major DAVIS FLOYD

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

VINCENNES, 22nd April, 1812

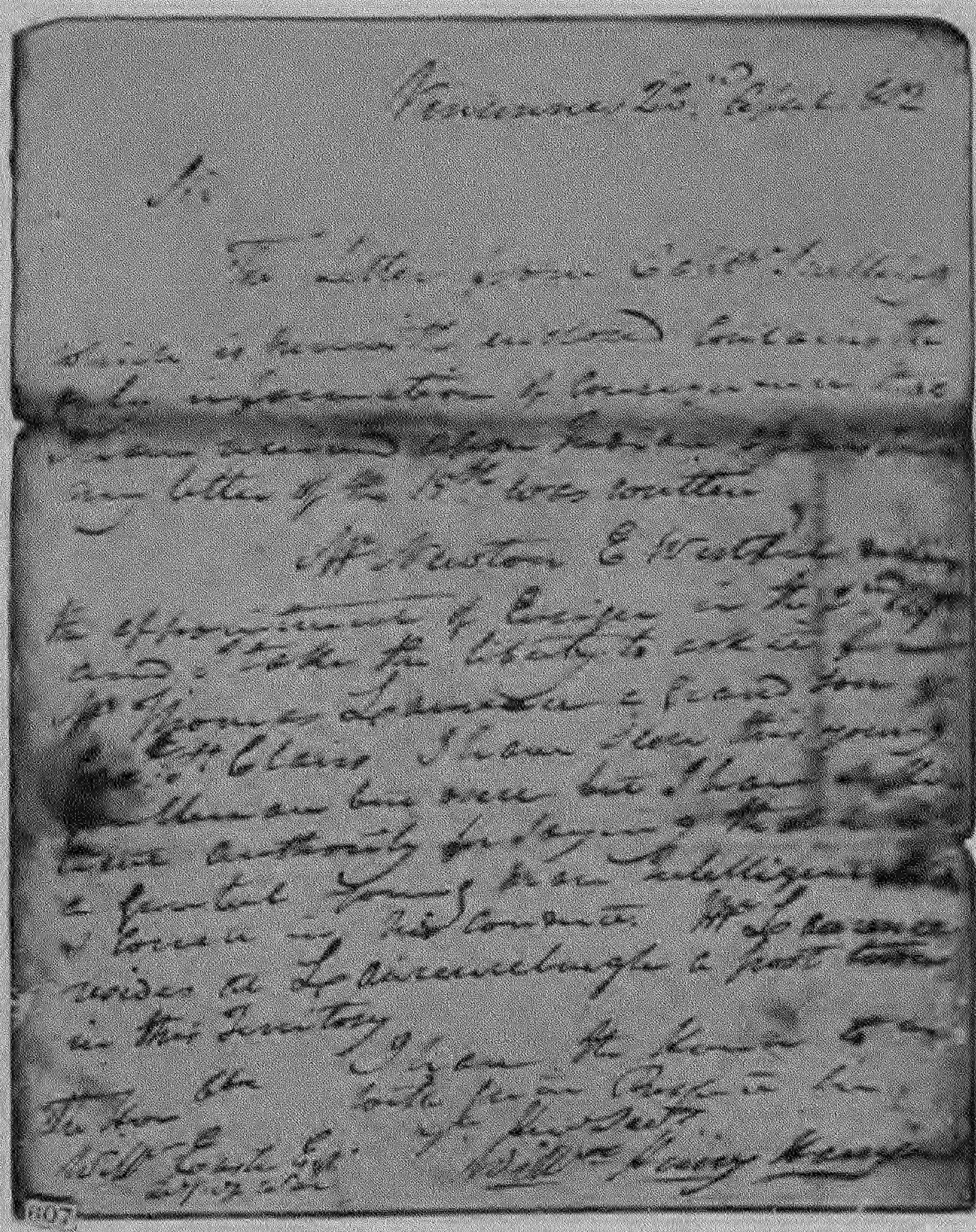
Har. Pa. 607

SIR,

The letter from Capt. Snelling which is herewith enclosed [April 16, above] contains the only information of consequence that I have received upon Indian affairs since my letter of the fifteenth was written.

Mr. Newton E. Westfal[1] declines the appointment of Ensign in the 2nd Regt. and I take the liberty to ask it for Mr. Thomas Lawrence, a grand son of Gen. St. Clair's. I have seen this young gentleman but once but I have sufficient authority for saying that he is a genteel young man, intelli-

1. Newton Edward Westfall was appointed coroner of Knox county Apr. 13, 1810; Jan. 6, 1813, he was superseded as he had left the county. The family has been well known about Vincennes since about 1800.



Facsimile of one of Harrison's letters. Original is on file in the archives of the War Department.

gent, sober and correct in his conduct. Mr. Lawrence resides at Lawrenceburgh a post town in this territory.

I have the honor to be with great respects, Sir,

Your Humble Servant,

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

The Hon. WM. EUSTIS, Esqr., *Secretary of War*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

VINCENNES 22nd, April 1812
10 O'clock p. m.

Har. Pa. 605, 606

SIR,

A colonel [John] Small has just arrived from the Settlement on the Embarras River five miles west of this place with the information of the murder of another family by the Indians about 8 o'clock this evening. A gentleman who arrived last evening informs me that a number of Winebagos, Sacs, Kickapoos etc. are now with Governor Edwards [of Ill.] in council at Cahokia. What faith in future can be placed in the promises of these scoundrels or what other course is there left for us to pursue but to make a war of exterpation upon them? If some offensive operations are not soon commenced against them we shall loose more of our citizens than the most bloody battle would cost us.

I have dispatched a party of Rangers and militia in pursuit of the Indians and I think there is a great probability that they will be overtaken.

I send this letter after the mail carrier by a special Express.

And am with great respect

your Humble Servant

WM. HENRY HARRISON

The Hon.ble. WILLIAM EUSTIS, Esqr. *Secy of War*

Rec'd. May 9, 1812

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

VINCENNES 29th April 1812

Har. Pa. 811-813

SIR:

In a letter which I had the honor to write to you in the night of the 22nd inst. I communicated the information which

I had just then received of the murder of a family upon the Embarras River about 5 miles from this place. The report proved but too true. On the succeeding day Col. [James] Miller went to the spot with a detachment of the regular troops and buried the bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Harryman and five small children. A violent rain which fell the night after these murders were committed rendered it impossible for the detachment of mounted men which were sent in pursuit of the Indians to discover the route they had taken.[1]

On the 11th inst. another family was attacked by the Indians a few miles from the Ohio, about 10 miles below the yellow banks [opposite Owensboro, Ky.] and about 75 from this place, the owner of the house [Atha Meeks] was killed and one of his sons badly wounded. Another son however with the assistance of the women of the family killed one of the 3 Indians and drove off the others. I have not been able to ascertain the Tribes to which the parties belong which have committed any of the late murders. It appears to me however to be very evident that their design is to distract and divide our attention to prevent the militia from embodying and certainly no plan could be more successful than that which they have fallen upon.[2] The murder committed near the Ohio where I supposed that there would be no danger even in the midst of an Indian war has so alarmed the people in that quarter that it would be impossible to make the militia turn out to march to the protection of any other place. The killing of the men upon the Driftwood fork of White River has produced similar affects in all the settlements eastwardly and southwardly of that place.

It is impossible Sir to give you an adequate Idea of the alarm and distress which these murders have produced. The account transmitted to you by Governor Edwards of the situation of the Illinois territory after the murders were committed there last year affords a better picture than I can draw of the scenes which are daily exhibited here. Families, abandoning their homes and flying they know not whither and many of them without any means of support, are seen in every direction. Nor is the situation of this town by any means such as offers security to the fugitives. The expected departure of

1. For a further account of this tragedy see Adam Walker's Journal above.

2. For the details of the Meeks tragedy see *Ind. Mag. of Hist. XIV, 304* and references there given.

the regular troops and the revival of the design by the Prophet and his Party (as communicated by Mr. Shaw) to surprise it by a water expedition caused it to be viewed as a place of greater danger than any other and the fugitives pass through it as expeditiously as possible. I have formerly described to you its situation and the impossibility of defending it with its own militia and under the present alarm it is impossible to get a single company nearer than the neighbourhood of the falls of the Ohio. For offensive operations I believe the men would turn out willingly and I understand that the People of Kentucky and Tennessee are anxiously waiting for an order to that effect.

The company of Rangers have been so much employed in detachments for some time past as to allow no opportunity for mustering them. It was however done yesterday and I have made such a distribution of them, as appeared to me to be best calculated to secure the settlements from surprise, I have so placed them that the country to the northwest north and east of this place in advance of all the settlements will be reconnoitered daily for nearly one hundred and fifty miles. If they do their duty it will be impossible for any large number of Indians to pass them unobserved and very difficult for a small party but there is still a considerable frontier below us and above (through the Delaware country) that is entirely exposed nor can the Rangers give us here timely notice of the approach of an enemy by water as they can descend the Wabash much faster at this season in their canoes than a horse can travel. Conformably to the idea suggested in my letter of the 15th inst. [see above] I have thought it proper to send a special messenger to the Delawares I selected for the purpose Major Davis Floyd who is well acquainted with the chiefs and I do myself the honor to enclose you a copy of his instructions [April 17 above] which were accidentally omitted to be sent by the last mail. Since his departure a man of the tribe has arrived here with letters from Connor and Capt. Hendricks and a speech from the chiefs, the object of all these was to assure me that the Delawares had no hand in the late murders; that that committed on Driftwood was intended to implicate them, and induce us to take satisfaction of them which would be the means (as the hostile Indians expected) to force the Delawares to take part with them in the War—

the murderers as the Delawares say were Potawatomies. On their return they passed near to the lower town of the former on White River and were seen by some of the women and they were tracked in that direction by some of our people and it will take proof equal to that of holy writ to convince them that they were not Delaware; I have and shall continue to do everything in my power to prevent this impression from becoming General. There are two very powerful considerations for preserving the neutrality of the Delawares if it be possible. In the first place the uncommon faithfulness with which they have [remainder of letter lost]

Harrison to Secretary of War

Vincennes 6th May 1812

Har. Pa. 618-620

Sir:

On Sunday evening last a party of Indians attacked a house on White River [Hindostan] about 35 miles from this place killed the owner (Mr. John McGowan) but were driven off without doing any further injury.[1] Most of the citizens in this country have abandoned their farms and taken refuge in such temporary forts as they have been able to construct. Nothing can exhibit more distress than those wretched people crowded together in places almost destitute of every necessary accomodation. Unless something can be done soon to enable the people to return to their farms I fear that there will be little or no corn planted this season. On the 2nd Inst. I received a letter from Mr. [Benjamin F] Stickney[2] containing the result of the Council lately held at Fort Wayne which has no doubt been communicated to you. This letter was brought to Fort Harrison by an Indian who was employed by Mr. Stickney for the purpose. On his way he was joined by the Chief Winemac with nine other Potawatomies. They were very desirous of coming here but were very properly detained by Captn. Snelling [at Fort Harrison].

1. John McGowan, with his parents, came to Vincennes from Washington county Penn. in 1787. With William and Jonathan Purcell and their families they came from Pittsburg in boats to the falls and thence overland. The story of the McGowan murder was written up by Dr. William McGowan, no doubt as he had it from his mother, and read at an old settlers' meeting in Vincennes May 27, 1874. See *Ind. Mag. of Hist. XVIII, No. 2.*

2. Benjamin F. Stickney succeeded John Johnson about this time as Indian agent at Fort Wayne. He served till 1820, when he located at Toledo, O.

Griswold, Fort Wayne, index

I have refused to suffer them to come further because I am convinced they would be killed in despite of any endeavours of mine to prevent it. I also suspect that there are spies amongst them sent by the Prophet. Those people were at Fort Harrison when the murder was committed on McGowan and very probably by a part of the same tribe. It is thus that we are served by these scoundrels Whilst some of them are making warm professions of friendship and enjoying our hospitality others are murdering our citizens. The people of this town and neighbourhood are in great alarm and consternation since the arrival of the order for Col. [James] Miller to march and they expect with great anxiety the adoption of some measure by the government for their protection.

There is no artillery of any description in this Territory. A few of those small pieces which were cast for Genl. Wayne's army a number of which must be at Massac or Newport and which are fit for nothing else would be serviceable in defending the forts against the attacks of Indians.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect.

Sir Yr. Humbl. Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble. WILLIAM EUSTIS Esqr. *Secty. of War*

JAMES NOBLE TO HARRISON

BROOKVILLE, May 6th 1812

Har. Pa. 625-629

To his Excellency WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON Governor of the Indiana Territory

SIR:

I send you a copy of the speech made by the Dellaware chiefs at White river and a copy of Jno. Conner's letter, which reached me shortly after I received the general orders for the militia. The minds of the people are much agitated; upon the reports of the different murders, committed on the frontiers of our Territory by the Indians together with the news contained in the speech of the Dellawares and Conner's letter, as it respects the pottawattomies, and the Dellawares I suppose or some other tribes of Indians now and then on our frontiers also the raising of the militia in the state of Ohio to march to the north, has created such alarm, that a number

of families have left the county and in order to prevent the whole of the inhabitants on the west fork of White Water, from moving away, and to quiet the minds of the people, tomorrow morning thirty men of the rifle company under the command of Capt. Herndon will march up the west fork of White Water and act as rangers, stationed at two block-houses fifteen at each where they will be supported, and remain until I hear from you. In some part of the county five and six families have come together given up all pretensions of making a crop on their own farms. If those men are to be kept out in service, you will be good enough to chalk out the method by which they are to be supported and paid. I hope the minds of the people will soon be at rest, everything has been done in my power to reconcile the people. Upon the receipt of Conner's letter I wrote him, advising the Dellawares to keep clear of our settlements. They might be injured through mistake, and at the same time observed that confidence was placed in them by you sir. Doctor Eastman just arrived in their place states that a man was killed and sculped near Eaton State of Ohio about forty miles from this place, a party had gone out in pursuit of the Indians that had done it. I have raised detachments from my Regt. sixty men and four sergeants from each Battalion and designated by whom to be commanded and to be in readiness together with the rifle company also appd. the places for rendezvous, block houses are erecting in the bounds of each company district and two or three men of each company, are ranging as far as the company extends; I send sir, a rough return of the strength of my Regt. you will readily see the deficiency of arms and ammunition which is the only difficulty with me. I am placed in a very unpleasant situation. A number of the inhabitants offended with me for not ordering out a larger body of the militia. I am sorry to see the country depopulating, most distant idea with me that the difficulty will be great with the Indians if the Dellawares remain friendly. Please to give me the particulars, as to the prospect of arms, etc.

I am sir with sentiments of respect your fd.

In haste &c. JAMES NOBLE[1]

1. James Noble was a Virginian by birth, and a Kentucklian by training. Although prominently and honorably connected with the first 25 years of our state history there is not sufficient biographical details of his life in print to justify a reference. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention at Corydon 1816 and then entered the U. S. Senate where he remained till his death at Washington, Feb. 26, 1831.

A Brief return of the Strength of the 7th Regt. I. Fy. M. (commd. by Lieut. Col. Commd. James Noble,) to the Commander in chief of the Militia of Indiana Territory.

Privates 540, Rifles 214, pounds of powder 68¾, Balls 1212, pounds of lead 55, Flints 337, Powder horns & shot pouches 198, Companies 9.

The above number of privates exclusive of noncommissd. officers.

JAMES NOBLE TO HARRISON

May 7, 1812

Har. Pa. 629

To his Excellency WILLIAM H. HARRISON, *Governor of the Indiana Territory:*

SIR:

You discover that I have not named the number of officers in my Regt. the reason of it, but four commissd. in it. I hope you will excuse me, until I can if ever, have it full of officers, there will be a district formed on the west fork White Water for a company to be consid. as infantry, and so soon as officers can be elected, will call for commissions. Please to send a commission for Thos. Clark, Lieut.[2] and Wm. Morgan Ensign.[2] If you should deem it proper it might save you trouble, send a parcel of blanks I will attend strictly to them, the bearer Mr. J. W. Morrison[3] formerly commd. a rifle company previous to the division of Dearborn, but some time ago resigned it in consequence [stead] of it, a light company, was raised, in that Batt. Morrison residing therein. I think proper to mention the circumstances. If you have concluded to send the commissions I wrote for some time ago please to let the bearer have them.

I am Dear Sir Your sincere frd.

JAMES NOBLE

2. Thomas Clark and William Morgan received their commissions May 24, 1812. The blanks were sent as requested but the *Executive Journal* does not make it clear that they were ever returned. There is evident confusion along here in the *Journal.*

3. Joseph Washington Morrison was commissioned captain in the Dearborn militia Aug. 22, 1810. The Morrison family is one of the oldest in Dearborn county, Ephraim Morrison, a Revolutionary soldier, having settled there with his family in 1797.

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

VINCENNES May 13th 1812

Har. Pa. 621-624

SIR:

An express has just arrived from the county of Franklin in this territory, by which I have received a speech made by the Delaware Chiefs to [John] Conner the Interpretor of that Tribe and a letter from Conner to a Col. [James] Noble of the militia informing him that a party of Potawatomies having passed their town and taken the direction of our settlements, with an intention as the Delawares supposed of committing hostilities. Their opinion happens to be but too well founded, as it appears from the letter of Col. [James] Noble, which I do myself the honor to enclose, [May 6, above] that a citizen of the State of Ohio was killed about the 1st of this month near Eaton about forty miles from the Colonels residence.

I am perfectly at a loss as to the orders proper to be given in the present state of the country. I do not conceive myself authorized to order out any militia at the expense of the United States. I had hoped that the Eastern settlements would have escaped the Indian Depredations, but it appears that they are determined to diffuse their favours as widely as possible—from the motive no doubt which was suggested in a former letter, viz. that of distracting our attention, and thereby preventing the Militia from embodying. Altho the people of this part of the Territory are generally in Forts it is impossible to make any disposition of a company of Rangers to prevent small parties of Indians from penetrating the settlements to do mischief, and our line of frontier is so extensive that even the kind of protection which the Rangers do afford, cannot be extended to more than one fourth of it. I must beg leave to call your attention to the enclosed statement of the deficiency of arms in Col. [James] Noble's regiment. Great as it is I believe that there are more arms reported in it than in any of the 8 Regiments in the Territory, excepting the two in this county, amongst whom the 500 muskets which were forwarded to me have been distributed. Numbers of the Militia would purchase guns but they are not to be had in the western country and our sole dependance is

upon the publick arsenals. A few days ago two Wea Chiefs arrived here, being dispatched as they said by the Winebagos to inform me that several chiefs of that Tribe had arrived on the Wabash with the intention of going to visit the President, but that they were apprehensive that the late murders committed, as they said, entirely by the Potawatomies, would prevent them from being permitted to proceed. I have no idea of the least sincerity in this declaration—and I am also persuaded that the Weas were sent in as spies. I gave them assurances however of their being well received and committed to them a letter to the agent at Fort Wayne directing him to provide the means of sending them on should they apply to him for that purpose.

The Territory is depopulating very fast and will no doubt continue to do so untill effectual measures are taken for its protection.

There is some great deficiency in the Mail between this and the seat of Government proceeding I suppose from a part of it being retained at some of the offices in consequence of its being too heavy for the ordinary conveyance. The envelope which covered the appointments of Captain Chunn and his subalterns had the Washington post mark of the 16th Ultimo, but it did not reach this place untill yesterday. [May 12][1]

I have the Honor to be with great respect

Sir your Humble Servt.

WILLM HENRY HARRISON

The Honble. WILLIAM EUSTIS, *Secy. of War*

P. S. The information given by the party of Potawatamies mentioned in my last to Captain [Zachary] Taylor at Fort Harrison was that the Prophet was in the neighbourhood of his former residence with about 300 winebagoes and about 200 of other Tribes and that he was daily gaining strength.[2]

1. John T. Chunn was commissioned captain of infantry Apr. 14, 1812, and assigned to the 19th Regt. He served till June 1, 1821. His subalterns were Robert M. Evans, 1st Lieut., and Robert Buntin, Jr., 2d Lieut. The latter served through the war in the 24th Inf.

2. Col. John P. Boyd left Vincennes for Washington Apr. 12. No doubt his report on the situation at Vincennes was contradictory to that of Harrison. Col. James Miller who was left in charge was ordered to report with all regulars at Newport and on May 3 started, leaving the frontier on the Wabash entirely uncovered.

SPEECHES OF INDIANS AT MASSASSINWAY[1]

By the WYANDOTS:

May 15, 1812

Dawson, *Harrison, 266 seq.*

Younger brothers, you that reside on the Wabash, listen to what we say; and in order that you may distinctly hear and clearly understand our words, we now open your ears and place your hearts in the same position that it was placed by the Great spirit when he created you.

Younger brothers, we are sorry to see your path filled with thorns and briers, and your land covered with blood; our love for you has caused us to come and clean your paths and wipe the blood off your land, and take the weapons that have spilled this blood from you, and put them where you can never reach them again.

Younger brothers, this is done by the united voice of all your elder brothers, that you now see present, who are determined to not be disobeyed. The determination of your elder brothers, to put an entire stop to the effusion of blood, has met with the approbation of our fathers, the British, who have advised all the red people to be quiet and not meddle in quarrels that may take place between the white people.

1. "It appears that the mission of major Floyde had a most salutary effect upon all the tribes with whom he communicated, except the adherents of the prophet and Tecumseh.

"A grand council, it seems, was held at Mississinway, and twelve tribes were there represented. They all seemed heartily in favour of peace being made, and continued with the white people, and they all but Tecumseh reprobated the murders and depredations which had been committed on them, particularly since the battle of Tippecanoe, and they as unanimously denied having sanctioned them. Tecumseh's speeches, however, were of a different complexion; he hypocritically professed himself the friend of peace, avowed the attack on his people in his absence as unprovoked, and still continued to harp upon the old string, the impropriety of any of the tribes selling lands to the United States; he carefully kept out of view the foul aggressions committed by his people, and if he admitted that any such had been committed, it was by the Potawatamies, and when retorted on by the latter, who disowned those of their tribe who had by the evil counsels of the prophet committed those enormities, and declared themselves willing to have them put to death, he dexterously evaded the point, and said, that the good advice they gave their brothers was misrepresented, and openly defied any one to say that they had directly or indirectly advised any living creature to make war upon their white brothers: but he carefully evaded touching upon the point of the frequent demands which had been made for the murderers being given up, and the stolen horses restored, and the uniform refusals which had been made to comply with those demands: and in order the better to elude the strong observations made by the other chiefs, he again reverts to the sale of the lands by those who he pretended had no right to sell them." Dawson, *Harrison, 265*

There were represented at the council Wyandots, Chippewas, Ottawas, Potawatomies, Delawares, Miamis, Eel Rivers, Weas, Piankeshaws, Shawanoes, Kickapoos and Winnebagoes.

TECUMSEH, the prophet's brother, replied:

Elder brothers, we have listed with attention to what you have said to us. We thank the Great Spirit for inclining your hearts to pity us; we now pity ourselves; our hearts are good, they never were bad. Governor Harrison made war on my people in my absence: it was the will of God that he should do so. We hope it will please God that the white people may let us live in peace; we will not disturb them, neither have we done it, except when they come to our village with the intention of destroying us. We are happy to state to our brothers present, that the unfortunate transaction that took place between the white people and a few of our younger men at our village, has been settled between us and Governor Harrison; and I will further state, that had I been at home, there would have been no blood shed at that time.

We are sorry to find that the same respect has not been paid to the agreement between us and Governor Harrison, by our brothers, the Potawatamies; however, we are not accountable for the conduct of those over whom we have no control; let the chiefs of that nation exert themselves, and cause their warriors to behave themselves, as we have and will continue to do ours.

Should the bad acts of our brothers, the Potawatamies, draw on us the ill will of our white brothers, and they should come again and make an unprovoked attack on us at our village, we will die like men, but we will never strike the first blow.

The POTAWATAMIES spoke:

We are glad that it should please the Great Spirit for us to meet to-day, and incline all our hearts for peace.

Some of the foolish young men of our tribe, that have for some winters past ceased to listen to the voice of their chiefs, and followed the counsel of the Shawanoe, that pretended to be a prophet, have killed some of our white brothers this spring, at different places. We have believed that they were encouraged in this mischief by this pretended prophet, who, we know, has taken great pains to detach them from their own chiefs and attach them to himself. We have no control over these few vagabonds, and consider them not belonging to our nation; and will be thankful to any people that will put them to death, wherever they are found. As they are bad

people, and have learnt to be so from the pretended prophet, and as he has been the cause of setting those people on our white brother, we hope he will be active in reconciling them. As we all hear him say, his heart is inclined for peace, we hope we may all see that declaration supported by his future conduct and that all our women, and children may lay down to sleep without fear. The future conduct of the Potawatamies will evince the great desire they have to effect this desirable object.

TECUMSEH replied:

It is true, we have endeavored to give all our brothers good advice; and if they have not listened to it, we are sorry for it. We defy a living creature to say we ever advised any one, directly or indirectly, to make war on our white brothers. It has constantly been our misfortune to have our views misrepresented to our white brethren; this has been done by pretended chiefs of the Potawatamies and others, that have been in the habit of selling land to the white people that did not belong to them.

TECUMSEH was then called to order by the DELAWARES, who said:

We have not met at this place to listen to such words. The red people have been killing the whites, the just resentment of the latter is raised against the former. Our white brethren are on their feet, their guns in their hands; there is no time for us to tell each other you have done this, and you have done that; if there was, we would tell the prophet that both the red and white people had felt the bad effect of his counsels. Let us all join our hearts and hands together, and proclaim peace through the land of the red people. Let us make our voices be heard and respected, and rely on the justice of our white brethren.

The MIAMIS spoke as follows:

We feel happy that we all appear of one mind, that we all appear to be inclined for peace; that we all see that it would be our immediate ruin to go to war with the white people.

We, the Miamis, have not hurt our white brethren since the treaty of Greenville. We would be glad if all of the other nations present could say the same; we will cheerfully join

our brethren for peace, but we will not join you for war against the white people.

We hope our brothers, the Potawatamies, Shawanoes, Kickapoos, and Winebagoes, will keep their warriors in good order, and learn them to pay more respect to their women and children than they have done by going and murdering the innocent white people. The white people are entitled to satisfaction; it is the interest of the Indians to give it to them immediately. Let us do justice to our white brethren and expect justice from them; by doing this, we shall insure the future peace and happiness of our women, and children.

Then the KICKAPOOS spoke:

Elder brothers, we, your younger brothers, have listened to all you have said with attention. It only remains for us to say, that we are glad to hear you say you have pity on our women and children and wish to stop the effusion of our blood. We have settled our disputes with Governor Harrison, and are sorry the Potawatamies have not acted more like men than they have done, by killing the white people after we had made peace with them.

We have not two faces, and despise the people that have. The peace we have made with Governor Harrison we will strictly adhere to, and trouble no person and hope none will trouble us.

The foregoing is a true translation.

WILLIAM WELLS

May 24th, 1812

B. F. STICKNEY TO GOVERNOR HULL

FORT WAYNE, May 25, 1812

Am. Sta. Pa. Indian Affairs I, 810

SIR:

The time appears to have arrived, when it is necessary, if possible, to cut off the communication between the Indians within the territory of the United States and Canada. But I do not know how far it would meet the views of the Government, at the present moment. Many circumstances having come to my knowledge upon this subject, I will give you an outline of them now, and more particular when I have more

time; considering you the most proper person to give the immediate information to. [Cf. July 8, below]

It has for some time been well understood, that the British Government has agents among the Indians within the United States; but has been almost impossible to distinguish them.

There is a man here now, who is called Shetoon, [Esidore Chaine] who represents himself to be a Wyandot chief from Brownstown. His mother is said to have been a Wyandot squaw, and his father a Frenchman. He appears to be more of a Frenchman than an Indian. He came here last February, and brought a letter of introduction from Mr. [Reuben] Atwater[1] (your Secretary) to this agency. He remained near here (with the Little Turtle) till April. The first of my seeing him was at a conference I held with the Indians, soon after I came here, about the 16th or 17th of April. His conduct appeared to me rather suspicious then; and I mentioned my suspicion, in writing to Governor Harrison. Since then he has called a general council of Indians on the Wabash, at Massasinaway, where twelve tribes were represented. They broke up their council at Massasinaway about twelve days ago, to meet here to inform me what they had been doing. When they met here, he took the lead; and it is said he took the lead at Massasinaway; when he returned here, with full evidence, having the confidence of the Miamies and Delawares, my suspicions were much abated. But at length, by the observation of interpreters in my absence, of friendly Indians, and my own observation, the matter is put beyond all doubt with me, that he is an emissary employed by [Matthew] Elliot, although the evidence is not of that kind that would convict him in a court of law.

Whether this business is fully known to his nation or not, does not appear. But it appears from the collected mass of circumstances, that he has been sent by his nation to preach peace to the rest, and that he has been employed by Elliot to preach peace in general, and tell the real views of the British Government to a few. He carries many speeches of war, as well as peace. Black wampum and white wampum. He told to one Indian, where he though he was safe, that he was employed by the British Indian agent to go and advise all the Indians of this western country to be at peace with the United

1. Reuben Atwater was secretary to Governor Hull, later acting governor and collector of the port of Detroit.

Mich. Hist. and Pioneer Col. Index

States: and to form a system, by which they may all be united as one nation. And the agent told him that he was going away off, where a greater agent (or chief) lived, where he was to have all the tribes ready to send each of them one chief, and one war chief, to the agent in Canada, where they would receive instructions what to do. This was told by Shetoon between here and Detroit, on his way coming here. His conduct has corresponded with this: but I believe he has been cunning enough to conceal his views from nearly all the Indians who are sincere friends to the United States; nor do the white people here suspect him of any improper views. Since he has returned from Massasinaway, he has told in his public speeches, and in public generally, that Tecumseh, the Kickapoos, and Winnebagoes, all acknowledge the peace with Governor Harrison, and were really disposed for peace. But at length he let it out to a Shawanee chief, with whom he was not so well acquainted as he supposed himself to be, that Tecumseh was going home to plant corn for himself, and should send his young men again to Canada, to get more powder and lead. (There were twenty four of Tecumseh's men passed here on their way from Canada, the 1st of April, loaded with ammunition). Shetton asked the Shawanee if he thought it was likely Tecumseh's men would be permitted to pass unmolested. Shetoon, in all his communications to me, or the Indians, appeared to be anxious to have everything left loose and uncertain. I had at length to fetch the matter to this point: that as they had told me many fine things, that they meant to try to do, I would give them one moon to give up their murderers, and make the other necessary restitutions. I pledged myself to them, that the army would not strike upon them to destroy them, in less than a moon; if the restitution was not made within that time, I would not hold myself accountable any longer for what the warriors might do to them. The army was ready and at hand to strike when our Great Father should give the word.

They have dispersed, with the appearance of a full determination to apprehend the murderers, and fetch them to justice.

I have the honor to be, your humble servant.

B. F. STICKNEY, *Indian Agent*

P. S. I shall keep Shetton amused here as long as I can, hoping to obtain more from him.

STICKNEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

FORT WAYNE, May 25, 1812

Am. Sta. Pa. Indian Affairs I, 810

My last was on the 15th instant. I told you then of the measures I had taken to make peace with the relations of the two Indians who were killed at Greenville. Before receiving this, you will undoubtedly have received more correct information of the circumstances than I could give you. The women and child who were taken prisoners, were sent to me by Mr. [John] Johnson, with three or four horses, and as much of the other property that was taken, as he could obtain, under the care and protection of two Shawanee chiefs and ten warriors. They arrived four days ago, when there was a general collection of Indians forming, to inform me what had been doing at a grand council they had been holding on the Wabash, where twelve tribes were represented, consisting of the Wyandots, Chippewas, Ottawas, Pattawatamies, Delawares, Miamies, Eel River Mamies, Weas, Piankeshaws, Shawanese, Kickapoos, and Winnebagoes. [May 15 above] The council here continued two days and amounted to but very little more than that they had united to secure and maintain peace. I cannot explain the whole better than by enclosing you a copy of my letter [May 25, above] to Governor Hull. [Extract]

B. F. STICKNEY

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

VINCENNES May 27th 1812

Har. Pa. 631

SIR:

Since I had the honor to write to you on the 13th inst. no further mischief has been done by the Indians that has come to my knowledge. There have however been several parties within the settlements and a detachment of Militia are now in pursuit of four that were discovered about 7 miles from this place the evening before last. The Indians are much favoured in their situation from the unusual wetness of this season which enables them to travel for miles in ponds or overflowed low grounds.

Yesterday evening I received a dispatch from Captain [Zachary] Taylor containing the speeches of Lapousier and

Stone Eater, who have just arrived as they say from Mississinway by the way of the Prophets Town. They assert that the Council at the former place terminated in an unanimous resolution upon the part of the tribes who were present to remain at peace with the United States. Their speeches contain much profession of friendship, but not one word upon the subject of the Chiefs going on to Washington or the delivery of the murderers—one or both of which was required by me as the only evidence that could be relied upon of their disposition to remain at peace with us.

I daily expect more correct information from Fort Wayne. I have heard nothing of Mr. [Davis] Floyd since the 2nd Inst. He was then at the Delaware Town. I am a little apprehensive for his personal safety, as a man of the Delaware Tribe was very unnecessarily and improperly killed near the Ohio in this County since Floyds departure. [in connection with the Meeks tragedy]

I have the honor to be, with great respect
Sir your humble Servt.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Hon. WILLIAM EUSTIS, *Sec. of War*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

VINCENNES June 3rd, 1812

Har. Pa. 636, 637

SIR:

I had the honor this day to receive your favor of the 13 & 14th Ultimo by the same conveyance. I also heard from Col. [William] Russell[1] who is gone to the Red banks [Henderson Ky.] to march across a company of Rangers whom he expects to meet at that place. The Col. in his letter to me says "My own opinion has always been to defend the frontier in the best manner for the safety of the inhabitants is always to carry the war into their own country. Should you sir be able to ascertain the Towns that are unfriendly I would without being better informed deem it my duty to embody the Rangers and one company of the troops and move against them and burn and destroy any such town".

1. William Russell was of Va. parentage. He was a Lieut. in the Rev. Later he came to Ky. where he became a Lieut. Col. of Vols. 1792; Col. 7th Inf. May 3, 1808. He served through the War of 1812. Died July 3, 1825.

If Col. Russell has any instructions to commence offensive operations I should be thankful to be informed how far it is expected that my opinions and advice are to govern or control his measures.

I do not by any means wish to shun any responsibility that the Government should think proper to impose upon me. But it appears to me that unless the Col. possesses instructions that are very different from those which I have had the honor to receive (which refer altogether to defensive measures) I should not sanction or can permit so decisive a step as he speaks of. But if any advice or assistance of mine shall be deemed of importance to the Colonel or to any other person to whom may be committed the task of repelling or chastising the aggressions of the Indians I beg leave to assure you Sir that it shall be afforded with frankness and candor.

I have the Honor to be with Great Respect
Sir Your Humble Servant

WILL. HENRY HARRISON

Hon. WM. EUSTIS Esq. *Secty of War*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

VINCENNES 3rd June, 1812

Har. Pa. 632-635

SIR:

I have no information of any recent depredations committed by the Indians and you will have been informed by the agents at Fort Wayne that the council at Mississinway resulted in a determination by a large majority to remain at peace. Indeed that all *professed* that intention. There is however nothing but these professions to evince the existence of any such disposition upon the part of the heretofore hostile bands. The only proofs of their sincerity which they could give or we could accept after being so repeatedly deceived—viz the going on of the Chiefs to the seat of Government or the delivery of the murderers have been entirely evaded, altho the former constituted the basis of the agreement made with me on the first of March last. The information received within a few days from Gov. Edwards (and he has better means of acquiring it than I have from the intercourse that is kept up between the Tippecanoe & the Illinois River) confirms that which I have previously received from a principal Potawatimee Chief —viz that the major part of the Winnebago Tribe are at

Tippecanoe with the Prophet and Tecumseh and that they have also been joined by many small bands from the Illinois River and the east of lake Michigan—making a force at least equal to that which they commanded last summer and that their intentions were entirely hostile. The Gov. [Edwards] also says that there are at this time nearly eight hundred Warriors embodied at Peoria. That the British agents were endeavoring to effect a peace between the Sioux and Chippewas for the purpose of uniting both those Tribes in the War against us and that they were making large deposits of Indian goods at their establishments on Lake Michigan and other convenient locations between that lake and Lake Superior.

Major [Davis] Floyd has returned from the Delaware towns. He was detained by the Chiefs until they could learn the result of the Council at Mississinway. This tribe is entirely to be depended on. They have determined to follow the Wishes and Directions of the President implicitly.

Upon the whole Sir there is nothing in the suspension of Indian aggression for the last three weeks to induce a belief that the present is any other than one of those deceitful calms which frequently occur in Indian Warfare and which are always succeeded by increased activity in their depredations.

I have heard nothing from Col. Russell but on Friday last a company of mounted volunteers arrived hear from Frankfort Kentucky.[1] The information of the danger to which we were exposed induced these patriots to come on without the hope of pay and at their own expense. I have however offered them such provisions as the contractors Stores would supply. Two other companies have organised themselves and have tendered their services to come on at any time that I should send for them. But as the object of all of them is to be actively employed I shall not send for either of the others and shall dismiss the one that is now here unless the face of affairs should change in a few days or I should receive some orders from you to justify their detention.

With great Respect I am sir your
Humble Servant

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

The Hon. WILLIAM EUSTIS Esq. *Secty. of War*

1. This company was commanded by Capts. John Arnold and Anthony Crocket who had served with Harrison under Wayne. The company consisted of 70 men and remained 20 days.

McAfee, *The Late War*, 110

TECUMSEH TO ELLIOTT

AMHERSTSBURG June 8, 1812

Wood, *Canadian War of 1812, 312*

FATHER & BROTHERS HURONS;

Brother Hurons, [see June 16 below]

You [Chettoon or Chaine] say you were employed by our Father and Your own Chiefs to come and have some conversation with us, and we are happy to see You and to hear Your and our Father's Speech. We heartily thank you both for having taken the condition of our poor Women and children to Your Considerations: We plainly see that You pity us by the concern You shew for our welfare; and we should deem ourselves much to blame if we did not listen to the Counsel of Our Father and our Brothers the Hurons.

Father and Brothers! We have not brought these misfortunes on ourselves; We have done nothing wrong, but we will now point out to You those who have occasioned all the mischief.

Our Younger Brothers the Putewatemies (pointing to them) in spite of our repeated counsel to them to remain quiet and live in peace with the Big Knives, would not listen to us —When I left home last Year to go to the Creek Nation, I passed at Post Vincennes and was stopped by the Big Knives, and did not immediately know the reason, but I was soon informed that the Putewatemies had killed some of their people; I told the Big Knives to remain quiet until my return, when I should make peace and quietness prevail—On my return I found my Village reduced to ashes by the Big Knives—You cannot blame Your Younger Brothers the Shawanoes for what has happened: the Putewatemies occasioned the misfortune. Had I been at home and heard of the advance of the American Troops towards our Village, I should have gone to meet them and shaking them by the hand, have asked them the reason of their appearance in such hostile guise—

Father & Brothers! You tell us to retreat or turn to one side should the Big Knives come against us; had I been at home in the late unfortunate affair I should have done so, but those I left at home were (I cannot call them men) a poor set of people, and their scuffle with the Big Knives I compare to a struggle between little children who only scratch each

others faces—the Kickapoos and Winibiegoes have since been at Post Vincennes and settled that matter amicably.

Father & Brothers. The Putewatemies hearing that our Father and You were on the way here for peaceable purposes, grew very angry all at once, and killed Twenty-seven of the Big Knives.

Brothers! We Shawanoes, Kickapoos and Winibiegoes, hope You will not find fault with us for having detained You so long here; We were happy to see You and to hear Your and Our Father's words; and it would surely be strange if we did not listen to our Father and our eldest Brothers.

Father & Brothers! We will now in a few words declare to You our whole hearts—If we hear of the Big Knives coming towards our villages to speak peace, we will receive them; but If We hear of any of our people being hurt by them, or if they unprovokedly advance against us in a hostile manner, be assured we will defend ourselves like men. And if we hear of any of our people having been killed, We will immediately send to all the Nations on or towards the Mississippi, and all this Island will rise as one man—Then Father and Brothers it will be impossible for Your or either of You to restore peace between us.

William Claus to Brock

Amherstburg 16th June 1812

Wood, *Canadian War of 1812, 310*

Sir,

On my arrival at this Post two days ago, the enclosed Speech [See June 8, above] from Teekumthie, in answer to the Message sent to him by the Superintendent of Indian affairs [Matthew Elliott] by your order, was put into my hands. I immediately sent to the standing stone [Near Cadiz, O.] for Esidore Chaine,[1] a Huron, who was the bearer of the message and received from him the following information.

Teekumthie on hearing of Chaine being on the way with a Message advanced to Machekethe [Mississinewa] about Sixty miles West of Kickayuga, or Fort Wayne, with twelve different Nations, amounting to about Six hundred men, two leading

1. Isidore Chaine or Chene was one of the most famous British partisans around Detroit. From the attack on Boonesboro to the end of the War of 1812 he was an Indian leader. He was kept on the British pay roll as an interpreter. He is the one referred to by Stickney as "Shettoon".

Chiefs of each Nation; they had plenty of Corn with the exception of the Shawonoes, who lost their's after the engagement with Governor Harrison—Teekumthie left at his Village three hundred men when he advanced to meet Chaine; they have been constantly employed in making Bows and Arrows, not having any ammunition; Teekumthie was much dissatisfied with his Brother for engaging Governor Harrison, last fall, as their plans were not sufficiently matured—he further states, that Governor Harrison held a General Council about the Full Moon in May, and called on the different Nations to deliver up their men who had committed murder on the Big-Knives, (meaning the Americans) the Potowatamies being particularly pointed at, replied, that before they could give an answer they must consult their Nation and that at the next full-moon they would give him an answer—he replied that it was very well, and that he would wait with patience, but if he did not hear from them by that time, he would march against that nation and cut them off. Chaine mentioned to me that the Indians knew the Americans too well, to believe that their intention was to attack only the one nation, and if they struck a blow, it would be against the whole, and that they would not be asleep—That all the Nations are aware of the desire the Americans have of destroying the Red people and taking their Country from them.

On examining the issues of Ammunition to Indians at Amherstburg, for the last six months, I find that in Powder that they have received only 1,200 pounds, making a difference of nineteen hundred and twenty-one pounds less than at former periods—of Lead, not one ounce has been issued to them since last December, which will account for the increased consumption of provisions.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Most Obedient An Very Humble Servant.

W. CLAUS *D. S. G.*

JOHN TIPTON, JOURNAL

CORYDON June 30, 1812

Tipton Collection in the Indiana State Library

On the 30 day of June 1812 Capt. [Jacob] Zenor[1] and myself Received Letters from a number of Citizens on the drift-

1. Jacob Zenor served under Spencer in the Tippecanoe campaign and for many years thereafter in the Harrison county militia. As a representative of Harrison county he sat in the 1, 2, 4 and 5 General Assemblies.

wood fork of White river Requesting us to come out and fetch a Company to gueard them again the Indians and to Pertake of a diner on the fourth day of July.

On the Second day the Capt. marchd with 9 men Myself and some others ware to follow on the fifth.

I accordingly started Sunday the fifth in Company with one of the rangers. Went to where we were to meet our Company found they had left us. Rained hard wether wett, I killed a deer. We went to Mayjr Harber[2] and took dinner thence on to Blue river and staid all night at a house had some whisky.

Monday the Sixth the day Cloudy. We moved early 10 miles overtook hour company, thence on to Wm. Hoggeths[3] to Beckfast moved on to Prices lick Stopt had our horses fed thence on to a Mr. [William] Logans[4] took diner and had our horses fed and mooved Coss [cross] Muscak-I-tuch thence on to fort Pleasant found towo of our Company who informed us that the Capt. was at fort difiance. I then went on to fort difiance Late at night found all well the Capt informed me thee [they] had a fine dinner on the fourth of July.

Tuesday the Seventh we divided our Company being thirteen in Num Sent three to fort Pleasant Sent three to fort Alexander and myself with two others staid at ft. difiance. One of the citizens of ft. difiance mooved home and Capt Zenor with four men went with him.

Wednesday the 8th a Cloudy day myself and some of the rangers went to shooting then I went with Lt. [Alexander] Littele[5] to the Plaice where Capt. Zenor was stationd found that called their ft fort Recovery took som whiskey then returnd home in the time of a hard wind one of my men killed 2 Deer.

Thursday the 9 My two men and the citizens Went to pull flax and I started to town towt met our men comeing up turnd back with them went to ft. recovery then went to shooting then to other amusement hard rain at twelve took some whisky went home in the evening

2. John Harbison was appointed a major in the militia of Clark Co., then including Harrison.

3. William Hoggatt was the first sheriff of Washington Co., appointed Jan. 7, 1814. He was in what is now Orange Co., of which he was later clerk.

4. William Logan came to Washington County in the spring of 1809, settling on the walnut hills overlooking Muscatituck. E. D. Logan was a colonel in the militia and was in the pursuit of the Indians from the Pigeon Roost massacre.

5. Alexander Little was one of the early settlers of Hendricks Co., where his descendants still live.

friday the 10 the day very hot. I went with one of my men and Littell to gueard hour flax pullers We all work hard till late then went to shooting rain in the evening

Saturday the 11 the day clar and verry hot we all went to Valonia and mustered went to Shooting then returned home took dinner and I wrote this Journal wile I am ritting our fort people returned and told me that they ware done pulling flax

Sunday the 12 The day Clier and hot I staid all day in fort

Monday the 13 a Clier warm day in the morning Went to shooting and then to pulling flax.

Tuesday the 14 The morning Clier I went with one of our men to help the Citizens to Lift flax hard rain at one o clock returned home

Wednesday the 15 The day Cloudy and warm my mare lost in the morning all our men met at fort difiance to muster in the evening I went to town and found my mare went hirty. [warnt hurt]

Thursday the 16 the day Clier I went with another man to hunt I killed a deer at twelve returned at twelve found the men had went to draw a sain I went no fish caught

friday the 17th the day cloudy we went to the river to gigg fish. Caught some Returned went to pulling flax heard the armey was defeated [perhaps Hull at Detroit surrendered Aug. 16. such reports were continually spread among Indians]

Saturday the 18 in the morning went to Valonia then came Back thence to ft. Recovery to muster after muster to shoot Then returned home then went to fishing in Company with Lt. Litle and others Caught some fish and killed a Squirrel and returned home

Sunday the 19 the morning Clier and hot I staid in fort and was riting at three P. M. very hard thunder and raind and is now raining. It continued raining untill late at night most tremendious hard

Monday the 20th the morning Cloudy we maid Preparation to start home Capt. Zenor came on with his men from ft. Recovery and told us they had to swin a Creek on the way at 7 We set out for home came to Vallonia thence on to ft. Pleasant drank some whisky then mooved on Cosst Miscakituck then on two miles got some whisky thence on four miles

got half bushel of rotton Corn for 25 cents thence on Six men all merry shooting and hallowing one of our men Lost a blanket women went to find it three of the men came up Could not find the Blanket We stopt and got more whisky thence passt Prices lick thence on to hoggatts mill Staid all night

tuesday 21st the morning Cloudy we moovd at day light on to Will Coxes took breckfast and some whisky mooved again got to shooting one of our horses run off and throo the rider and hurt him verry much came— Stopt where one of our men took dinner mooved on Shieldses One of our men and myself left the Company and came home—at dark after being out 20 days and doing no good after indians

July the 22d 1812

(not signed G. P.)

Harrison to Hargrove

Vincennes, Indiana Territory
Sunday, July 5, 1812

Cockrum, *Poaneer History of Indiana, 348*

Captain Hargrove:

Dear Sir:

This letter will be handed you by interpreter John Severns, Jr.[1] The times are so full of threatenings that it is thought best to reorganize a ranger service which you proved yourself so competent in commanding during the year 1807, and with a view to that end, I now invite you to come to these headquarters for consultation. I would suggest that you come as soon as convenient for you to do so. The Indians are much better than the British and if they were not constantly urged to take up the tomahawk against the Americans there would be no trouble in keeping peace along the border; but from this on, as long as the war continues, there will be much trouble with all the tribes in the northwest and along the Wabash.

John Gibson, *Acting Governor*

Indiana Territory in absence of Governor Harrison. [Harrison was on a tour of eastern Indiana]

1. John Severns Jr. was a son of the old settler at Severn bridge over the Patoka in Gibson county. He spoke the Indian language and was a scout and interpreter on the Tippecanoe campaign.

Stormont, *Gibson County, 40*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

CINCINNATI (Ohio) July 7th, 1812

Har. Pa. 638-639

SIR:

I left Vincennes on the 19th ultimo for the purpose of reviewing and arming the regiments of militia in the eastern division of the territory. With respect to the Indians nothing worthy of notice had occurred previously to my departure and subsequently to my last communication excepting the arrival at Fort Harrison of thirty Kickapoos, Winebagoes and Shawanoes who from thence sent me a speech full of professions of friendship towards the U. States and earnestly desiring of me to send them some corn to preserve their families from starving. They informed me also that twenty Potawatomies had set out seventeen days before to commit murders on the Kaskaskias road. The substance of my answer was "that their professions of friendship could not be believed sincere when they admitted that they had suffered a small party to pass their camp containing six hundred warriors with the avowed intention of committing hostilities upon our citizens and that they could calculate upon no assistance from us until all the murderers of our people were delivered up." I pointed out to Col. [William] Russell a route by which a detachment of Rangers might possibly intercept the war party but I think it highly probable that no such party is out, and that the story is a fabrication of the Indians who communicated it for the purpose of enhancing their merit with us. There is no doubt of the truth of that part of their speech describing the extreme distress which prevails among them from the want of provisions. They have no corn and their hunting grounds being confined to a comparatively small district, and that too not the best for game, they are obliged to live on bark and roots. Under these circumstances it is not probable that they will leave their families to make a stroke in a considerable body. I am therefore no longer apprehensive for Vincennes until the roasting ear season. But it is very probable that a few hundred might be prevailed upon by their British allies to reinforce the army that is said to be collecting to oppose General Hull if it were not from an apprehension of leaving their families exposed to be captured by and expedition from Vincennes. From this circumstance I consider the accumulation of a small

force at Vincennes as forming a very useful diversion in favor of Gen. [William] Hull.[1] A company of United States infantry and another of Rangers are now here on their way to Vincennes, by order of Col. [William] Russell.[2] In addition to the force which the Col. has under his immediate command, I have directed the Colonel, commanding the regiments of Militia in the vicinity of Vincennes to furnish him with any number of men he may call for. As my family are at this place and there appears to be no immediate necessity for my being at Vincennes I shall not return until towards the last of the present month, employing myself in the meantime in assisting to discipline the tree regiments of Militia which border on this state, the fartherest of which is not more than sixty miles from this place. Should you have any orders for me in that time I must request them to be sent to the office here; but as it is possible that some event may precipitately recall me to Vincennes I must ask the favor of having a duplicate sent there.

I have the honor to be very respectfully Sir
Your Humble Servant

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Hon. WM. EUSTIS Esq. *Sect. of War*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

CINCINNATI, July 8th, 1812

Har. Pa. 640-643

SIR:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your circular letter of the 11th ultimo & have dispatched a speech to the chiefs of the several tribes within the Indiana Territory requiring them to meet the commissioners at the appointed time and place. I fear however that an arrangement which has been made by Gen. [William] Hull to assemble them at Brownstown near Detroit, on the 18th inst. will prevent their attendance at Piqua at the time proposed. The invitation to

1. William Hull was a native of Mass., served in the Continental line 1776-1783. U. S. Army Apr. 1812—Apr. 25, 1814, cashiered. Died Nov. 29, 1825.

2. Shortly after the Fourth regiment left Vincennes the Sec. of War countermanded the order, but the regiment was already too far on its way. In its place Col. William Russell of Ky. was to assemble some rangers and regular recruits. Harrison had great confidence in Russell and left the situation in his charge while he visited the eastern counties and Cincinnati where his family was on a visit.

the chiefs given by Gen. Hull came to my knowledge incidentally only a few days ago. Having been informed by Col. [Frederick] Geiger, Capt. [William] Well's father in law, that he (Wells) intended shortly to resign his appointment and retire into Kentucky, and believing that in the present critical state of our Indian affairs that the public service sound be benefitted by his remaining some time longer at Fort Wayne and thinking also that it would be proper that he should be under the controle of Mr. [B. F.] Stickney whilst he was there; I wrote to the latter and informed him that he must consider Wells under his immediate orders and that he should employ him in any manner in which his services might be useful. I have just received an answer from M. Stickney in which is the following curious paragraph—"With respect to what you say respecting my employing of Capt. Wells. In all my instructions from the secretary of war, both written and verbal, he has not given me the least intimation that I was to consider myself under the direction of any other officer than himself. And as I received my appointment from the secretary of War by the approbation of the President it appears to be a dictate of common sense that I should consider his instructions as the rule of my conduct. And he has instructed me to have nothing to do with Wells and that Wells is to have nothing to do with Indian affairs at Fort Wayne. Nevertheless every communication from you shall be attended to by me with the greatest cheerfullness and conformed to as far as my instructions with the War Department will permit". I am convinced Sir, that if M. Stickney's statement that he has not been informed that he was to receive orders from any other officer than yourself be correct, it has been occasioned by the extraordinary press of business in your office at the time that his instructions were composed. The general regulations for the government of the Indian Department published in the year 1802 or 3 by the immediate directions of the President, which have never been rescinded that I know of, prescribed: "That the superintendants in their several territories should be responsible for the conduct of Indian affairs in the same and that the agents and subagents should from them receive their instructions & through them correspond with the Department of War." And it was thought so important to preserve a proper subordination in the Indian Department that

at a subsequent period when the then agent at Fort Wayne manifested some disposition of hostility against me, he was made to understand by the Secy. of War that the President would retain no one in that office whose conduct was in the least disrespectful towards his superior and his then continuance in office was made to depend upon my forgivness.

The above regulations have indeed been but partially observed. The agents have generally corresponded immediately with the war office. They have all however heretofore acknowledged their obligation to obey the orders of the superintendant, and it has been reserved for the "common sense" of Mr. Stickney to discover that no such obligation existed because he derived his appointment immediately from you. The present situation of Indian affairs calling in my opinion, not only for the utmost vigilance from the officers in that department, but for harmony and concert in their measures, I directed Mr. Stickney, conformably to the ancient regulations of the Department, to correspond regularly and constantly with me; but in order that you might be informed without delay of every event of importance, he was directed to forward immediately to you copies of all letters and reports containing such information. The advantages attending this plan are too obvious to require enumeration, and provided you are promptly and correctly informed of the events passing at Fort Wayne it must certainly be very immaterial whether they come in a letter addressed immediately to yourself, or in the shape of a copy of one directed to me. It is this order that has wounded the pride of Mr. Stickney. His delicacy is offended by the idea of receiving orders from any other source than one of the principal departments of the Government. It appears to me to be essential to the public interests that his error should be immediately corrected and although Mr. Stickney has kindly offered to attend to any communication which I shall make him not inconsistent with his orders from the War Department, yet as he evidently assumes to stand upon ground independent of me, his measures may be in contradiction to mine and our interpretation of instructions so different as to produce a jarring and discord more fatal to the public interests than even the intrigues of the enemy. Indeed I have every reason to believe that the construction given by Mr. Stickney to his powers has already produced mischief. A Wea

Chief immediately from Fort Wayne told Capt. [Zachary] Taylor a few weeks ago at Fort Harrison that he had been informed that I was shortly to be deprived of my office. I have no idea that Mr. Stickney authorized such a report but I am convinced it had its origin in his assertion of Independence in a station which the Indians well knew had been entirely under my control. With regard to Wells it is scarcely necessary that I should observe to you Sir that I could have no motive but a regard to the public interests to keep him at Fort Wayne. I have before explained to you the particular circumstances which made his presence important, at that place. Hated & feared as he is by a great majority of the surrounding Indians, he is nevertheless able from his influence over a few chiefs of great ability to effect more than any other person particularly with regard to the *now* all important point of obtaining information. Indeed he deserves some credit from the circumstances that the line that separates his friends amongst the chiefs from his enemies being precisely such as I should designate to separate those who are sincere friends to the U. States from those who are so in profession only. Such however is the wayward disposition of the man that he began to affect an independence of Mr. Stickney, to send dispatches to me without his knowledge and to transmit information which had not previously been communicated to Mr. Stickney. This was the cause of my order to the latter to take Wells under his direction & to Wells to receive and obey instuctions & through him only communicate with me and it was my intention upon the first discovery of any improper conduct to Stickney to have requested his immediate removal from office.

I shall probably see the commissioners on their way to Piqua & shall cheerfully give them any information in my power.

I have the honor to be with great
Respect Sir Your Humble Sevt.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Hon. WILLIAM EUSTIS, Esq. *Sec. of War*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT, July 9th, 1812

Dawson, *Harrison, 272*

SIR,

By letter from Governor Edwards [Ill.] it appears that the Indians are again collecting. Should the regular troops and rangers under colonel [William] Russell, with the reinforcements ordered to be furnished on your requisition, be inadequate to the protection of the frontier, your Excellency will please to consult with governor Edwards, and to request from the governor of Kentucky, such detachments from the militia of that state, as emergencies may require.

The Governor of Kentucky will be advised of this instruction to your Excellency, and no doubt can be entertained of his cheerful co-operation.

Should offensive measures become necessary, the command within the Indiana territory will devolve upon you; and with the consent of governor Edwards your military command may be extended in the Illinois territory.

With great respect, etc.

W. EUSTIS

GIBSON TO HARGROVE

VINCENNES, INDIANA TERRITORY, July 11, 1812

Cockrum, *Pioneer History, 348*

It is hereby ordered that on and from this date, William Hargrove shall be in command of the rangers in Indiana Territory and to all whom it may concern, he is duly authorized to so act with the rank of Lieut. Col. commanding the rangers who will be stationed at different points in this Territory and will be so obeyed by the militia and all other troops enlisted for the defense of the Territory.

JOHN GIBSON, *Acting Governor*

Per J. T. D., Clerk.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GUIDANCE OF LIEUT. COL. WILLIAM HARGROVE COMMANDING RANGERS IN INDIANA TERRITORY

1. The object in placing a mounted corps of rangers on duty is that they can with celerity go over the various routes which you will select for them to operate on.

2. You will accept none but the best mounts for the men as speed in this service will be the object to gain. The men must be good horsemen and if possible, men who have had practice in shooting from horseback.

3. The most inportant point to guard will be the country east of this for twenty miles up to sixty or seventy miles east; and, that you may be able to have your men well in hand, it is thought best that you have a permanent stockade station between the White Oak Springs blockhouse [Petersburg] and the Mudholes. At this station you will keep a platoon of men and four sergeants to rank as first, second, third and fourth sergeants, to be men in every way competent to take charge of a squad of troops in any emergency. The next station will be at a point about ten miles east of Blue river and to be far enough to the north to furnish protection to the few settlers who have advanced beyond the line of safety in that direction. It will be necessary to have twenty men at this station, with three sergeants to rank as first, second and third sergeants.

4. The sections of country about Robb's Fort [Hazelton] and to the southwest of it are amply able to take care of themselves and furnish you all the men that you will want. It is thought best to locate a post at a point northwest of [Jesse] Kimble's mill on the foothills of the Wabash river [South West of Princeton]. The need of this station is, that there will be a large territory east and west of the Wabash river which is a dense wilderness and a large body of Indians could concentrate there and successfully raid any of the settlements in that section. Twenty men, with three sergeants, should be stationed at this point.

5. It is thought best that a station with ten men be at a point about twenty-five miles north of the mouth of the Wabash river, to be established under the command of two sergeants. All these stations should have a strong stockade that incloses all the ground that will be needed for the horses when inside and for barracks for the men. A strong, small house should be erected to hold the rations and ammunition.

7. The territory around all the stations from whence the Indians are most likely to come, should be closely watched. and a vidette station as far front as it is practicable to place it. This should be done every day. At night two men should be selected to act as advance sentinels. These men should be

placed at points where they can see the surrounding country with as little exposure to themselves as possible.

8. The arms should be of the best that can be secured, not of the army musket, as that is too heavy, but of the regular hunting rifle, with the caliber of a size that would make forty balls to the pound. For convenience in carrying, if the barrels could be cut down to about three feet and a half in length, it would be better. For the rest of the armament, the usual hunting outfit will be all sufficient.

9. The stations on the north frontier of Harrison County should patrol the section in their front to the north as far as they are safe to go, and to the northwest and northeast. The central and southern portion of Harrison County can take care of any raids that may come to them. They have a company called "Minute Rangers," that is commanded by Captain John Tipton, that patrol all the country as far south as the Ohio river and some miles west of Blue river and east until it touches with guards from Clark's Grant or Jeffersonville.

10. If you think best you can detail one man at each station for hunting game. In that way there will be no need of meat rations being drawn from the Commissary at this post.

11. You will have a platoon of not less than fifteen men with you at the place which you shall choose for the headquarters. As a suggestion, this headquarters would recommend that you have such a station at or near the White Oak Springs Fort. From there it will be easy to visit any of the stations and you will be near where it is thought the most likely place for the Indians to attempt to come into the settlements and near these headquarters.

Done at VINCENNES, INDIANA TERRITORY, July 11, 1812.

HARRISON TO SCOTT

CINCINNATI, 14th, July, 1812

Penn. Mag. of History, XXXII, 116

DEAR GOVERNOR:

The President has lately sent a message to Congress recommending that he may be authorized to appoint an additional number of general officers. I have received a letter from an officer of the army at Washington in which he says that it was intended to give me one of those appointments and the

command in this department. The bill however which was brought in consequence of the President's message has been rejected, but as a substitute for it another has been introduced authorizing him to appoint the officers of the volunteer corps. Now the object of this letter is to request you to write to the President and state to him (if such in your opinion should be the fact) that the volunteers from your state would serve under me as well as under any other person. I have been vain enough to think that there is no doubt of this fact—it has been declared to me by innumerable letters & by the declarations of almost all the officers whom I met with in passing through your State. However, I have no doubt of your being perfectly acquainted with the inclinations of your warriors & what would or would not please them.

When I passed through Georgetown the citizens who were assembled (& I was told that it was the most respectable meeting that they have ever held there) appeared warmly to resent the neglect with which it was said I have been treated by the Government and one of their number Gen. Henry or Gen. [John] Payne was requested to speak to me on the subject to know if I could inform them the reason of it.

The officer whom I mentioned to have received a letter from informs me that the Sec'y of War is really friendly to me—I have however reason to doubt this, I had rather if you should think proper to do it that you would write a letter directly to the President.

You see My Dear Sir that I trust you without reserve—use the same freedom with me & if there is anything improper in my request do not hesitate to say so. I shall write to Col. [William] Allen & Dr. [John] Scott on the subject. If the volunteer were generally to express their sentiments the probability is that they would be successful—I calculate that there will be at least a Division in Ky. Ohio & Ind. I shall remain here for several weeks, a letter will of course find me.

Present Mrs. Harrisons best Regards to the ladies as well as those of Dr. Sir.

Your hum. Servt.

WILLM. H. HARRISON

His Excellency Gov. SCOTT

JOHN GIBSON

John Gibson was born at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, May 23, 1740. His early life was spent in this frontier settlement. He received some education, perhaps as good as could be obtained at that place. He was attracted to the Indian trade and in 1758 took advantage of the opportunity offered by General Forbes' expedition against Du Quesne to go to the most remote post on the border. After the capture of Du Quesne, Gibson remained there and engaged in the Indian trade. He spent several years as a captive among the Mingoes, during which time he married the sister of Logan, the Mingo chief. By 1774 he had returned to Pittsburgh and was engaged in the Indian trade there when Dunmore's war broke out. He served in this war and a short time later raised a regiment and joined Washington at New York. After the retreat through New Jersey, in which he participated, he was sent west to command at Pittsburgh. After the war he resumed his trading business, serving his state occasionally in a political capacity. In 1800 he was appointed secretary of Indiana territory. He arrived at Vincennes in July, 1800, about six months ahead of the governor. When Governor Harrison took charge of the western troops in the war of 1812 Gibson became acting-governor and so continued until May, 1813, when he was relieved by General Thomas Posey, who had been appointed governor. Colonel Gibson lived for a few years afterward at Vincennes and then joined his son-in-law, George Wallace, at Braddock's Field, near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Here he died April 10, 1822.

GIBSON TO THE PRESIDENT

VINCENNES 15th July 1812

Har. Pa. 441, 442

SIR:

I have the honor of inclosing to your Excellency the Resolves of a Meeting of a number of the citizens of Vincennes and its Vicinity.

I have the honor to be with sentiment of high consideration your obdt. Servt.

JNO. GIBSON

JAMES MADISON Esqr. *President of U. S.*

RESOLUTIONS ON WAR WITH ENGLAND

At a meeting of a number of the Inhabitants of Vincennes and its Vicinity, on the 9th July 1812, Genl. John Gibson being called to the chair, and William Jones appointed as Secretary, the following Resolutions were moved and unanimously adopted viz.

Resolved that we do highly approve of the declaration of War against Great Britain, and pledge ourselves that we will exert all the means in our power in support of a measure so just and honourable.

Resolved that we have entire confidence in the Executive and Congress of the United States.

Ordered that the foregoing Resolutions be published in the *Western Sun* and a Copy thereof forwarded by the Chairman to the President of the United States.

JNO. GIBSON, *Chairman*

WILL JONES, *Secty.*

GIBSON TO HARGROVE

HEADQUARTERS, INDIANA TERRITORY,
VINCENNES, July 20, 1812

Cockrum, *Pioneer History, 351*

Col. WM. HARGROVE, *Commanding the Mounted Rangers of Indiana Territory*

This will be handed you by a Piankashaw Indian named Minto. Yesterday (Sunday) morning a French boy and his mother were out to the east in a cart, eight or nine miles from

this post, when they were met by eight Indians and robbed of their horse and cart. The woman thinks they were Shawnees. She says that she was on the old Delaware trace and was then some four or five miles north of White river. There was a cavalry company sent out from here to try to intercept them. The reason for reporting this to you is that the eight Indians seen may be only a small band of a much larger one that may be hovering on the frontier, with the hope that they may find an opportunity to raid some of the settlements. You had better send some of your men to several of the new settlements on the border and notify them of this, and inform the people that they must at once prepare to go into the fort at the first note of alarm.

The British will cause the Indians to do all the harm that it is possible for them to do. I have just had an interview with the French woman who was robbed. I asked here why they did not take her and her boy prisoners. She says they seemed to want to be friendly and only wanted the loan of the cart to haul several deer into their camp and in less than one-half moon, they said, they would bring it back to her at Vincennes. This, of course, was only a pretense hoping that she would report to this post that they were friendly Indians.

The reports from different points of the Territory indicate that the Indians are concentrating at various places on the northern frontier. It will be best to keep a vigilant lookout, for we cannot steer clear of trouble if the war continues, and it is much better to be prepared for trouble, if it is a little inconvenient to do so, than to wish that we had been, when it is too late.

JOHN GIBSON, *Acting Governor*

WELLS TO HARRISON

FORT WAYNE 22d July 1812

Har. Pa. 650-653

SIR:

I consider it a duty that I owe to my country and particularly the inhabitants of Vincennes to make the following statement to you. On the 17th June, Tecumseh arrived at this place and said he was on his way to Malden to receive from the British government 12 horse loads of ammunition for the use of his people at Tippecanoe.

He went on to Malden and arrived at that place a few days before Genl. [William] Hull with his army arrived at Detroit and immediately declared that he would join the British against the United States.

On the 12th instant his brother the prophet arrived at this place with nearly 100 Winabagoes and Kickapoos who have been ever since amusing the Indian agent at this place with professions of friendship and it is now evident that he has completely duped the agent [Stickney] who has suffered him to take the lead in all his councils with the Indians, given him ammunition and etc. to support his followers, until they can receive a supply from Tecumseh. On the 19th Inst. an express arrived in the prophet's camp from Tecumseh in order that it should make the better speed the express stole a horse from some of the inhabitants at the river Raisin and rode night and day. The horse gave out within 20 miles of this place. This express was directed by Tecumseh to tell the Prophet to unite the Indians immediately and send their women and children towards the Mississippi while the warriors should strike a heavy blow at the inhabitants of Vincennes, that he Tecumseh if he lived would join him in the country of the Winabagoes.

The Prophet found no difficulty in keeping this information to himself and one or two of his confidential followers and forming a story to suit the palate of the agent here and on the 20th inst. dispatched two confidential Kickapoos to effect the objects Tecumseh has in view. In order that these two Indians might make the better speed they stole my two riding horses and have gone to the westward at the rate of 100 miles in 24 hours at least. To keep the agent blind to his movements the prophet went early in the morning yesterday and told the agent that two or his *bad* young men was missing and that he feared they had stole some horses, the agent found no difficulty in swallowing the bait offered him and applauded the prophet for his honesty in telling of his bad young men as he called them stealing my horses. To keep up appearances the prophet has this morning dispatched 2 men on foot as he tells the agent to bring back my horses & that he and all his party will certainly attend the commissioners of the United States next month at Piqua. This he will do if he finds he cannot raise the western Indians against the United States but if he finds they will join him you may rely on it he will

strike a heavy blow as Tecumseh says against the whites in that quarter. You may rely on the correctness of this statement as I received information relative to the view of Tecumseh last night from a quarter that cannot be doubted. The conduct of the agent towards the prophet I have been an eye witness to.

I send this letter by an Indian to Fort Harrison and hope you will authorize me to pay him 12 dollars. Genl. Hull is now at Sandwich with his army. I heard from him last night. it is believed that the British will make little or no defence in Malden. The Indians have all with the exception of Tecumseh and about 100 abandoned the British. It is supposed that Malden has surrendered to General Hull before this time. [Compare July 8, above]

I have the honor to be Sir
respectfully your most Obt.

WILLIAM WELLS

His Excellency GOVERNOR HARRISON

P. S. The Prophet and his party leaves this place today for the Kith Tippecanoe. I have no reason to believe he has sent after my horses. He will remain at his village until he knows the intentions of the Western Indians if they wont join him he will endeavour to save himself by professions of peace to the commissioners at Piqua.

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

VINCENNES July 28th, 1812

Har. Pa. 644-647

SIR:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 18th inst. together with the inclosed duplicate of the 9th. I have lately received some information through [John] Conner, the Delaware Interpreter, which induces me to believe that the Indians who were assembled on the Illinois River had dispersed from the want of provisions. Yet as the Green Corn will soon be in a state to supply them it is more than probable that they will collect again unless they should be deterred by the impressions which our army may make on Canada and even in the event of our complete success in that Country it is probable that the followers of the Prophet may make a desperate effort previously to their returning to the

country between Lake's Michigan and Superior and the Mississippi where it is said the British have made deposits for supplying them. In your letter of the 9th inst you observe that should offensive measures become necessary the command within the Indiana territory will devolve on me & with the consent of Gov. [Ninian] Edwards may be extended to the Illinois territory. In the present situation of our country I should think myself highly censurable if I suffered any individual opinions & feelings to counteract the intentions of the Government and I certainly shall endeavour most zealously to discharge any duty which the President may think proper to assign me. That candor however with which I have been permitted to express my sentiments induces me to say that if a military expedition is carried on against the Indian tribes composed of Regular Troops and Militia it appears to me that it is important that it should be commanded by a regular officer. That kind of Military rank which the Governor of a Territory acquires by being designated to command in a letter is submitted to with reluctance by many of the Regular Officers; and indeed I have been told that some of them who are most respectable for military information have ventured to doubt its legality. An authority which is thus questioned is by no means sufficient to support that rigid subordination which is so essential in an army. And experience has convinced me that under such circumstances a single mischievious individual may jeopardize the safety of an army & defeat the object of a campaign. To the employment of a regular officer there can be but two objections, the one derived from his want of local information & the other arising perhaps from a regard to my feelings. If the latter has had any effect in inducing my nomination to command in case of offensive operations I must request that it should no longer stand in opposition to what I consider the public interest & I beg you to believe Sir, that my communications with any officer who may be employed near me shall be as frank and all the information I possess as faithfully communicated "as I would purge me of my sins to Heaven." The multiplicity of your duties and the absolute impossibility of your being able to complete every arrangement emboldens me to observe that as it is probable that an expedition may be necessary from the Wabash as soon as the season will permit, the person who is intended to command it should be immediately authorised to make the necessary ar-

rangements which must necessarily be incomplete if they are postponed until the event shall happen which will call the troops immediately to the field.

In the arsenal at New Port there are but a few hundred Cartouch boxes and no rifles or rifle equipments. Supposing that the Kentucky volunteers would want all that are there, I would not take but a small part of those which were wanted for the Indiana Militia. It is necessary also that the contingencies which would justify offensive measures should be defined and to what extent those measures should be carried, whether they are to be desultory expeditions or whether the country under certain circumstances is to be taken possession of. I do not wish, Sir, by any means to avoid any responsibility which the Government may think proper to impose as far as I am to be concerned. But I wish to know how far I am to take upon myself the responsibility of acting and in what cases I am to wait for definite and positive instructions.

From the information lately received from Governor Hull's army I hope and expect that he will succeed in reducing Malden, but it is said that he is not well supplied with provisions and I fear that the small convoys which are sent from the frontiers of this state will be not only inadequate, but that they may be cut off from the smallness of the escorts. Indeed nothing but the ignorance of the British as to their movements can save them. With proper information upon this subject they can send across the lake in six hours a force sufficient to take the block house erected at the rapids of Miami, intercept the convoy & return before a possibility of their being counteracted. [Exactly what happened]

I have the honor to be with great
respect Sir, your Humble Servt.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Hon. WM. EUSTIS *Secretary of War*

GIBSON TO HARGROVE

VINCENNES, INDIAN TERRITORY,
July 29, 1812

Cockrum, *Pioneer History, 352*

Col. WM. HARGROVE, *Commanding Mounted Rangers:*

For about ten days a man has been around this post claiming to be an expert engineer and that he has built many forts

for the mounting of heavy ordinances in the states east of the Alleghanies. He had such good papers of recommendation that he was permitted to go where he pleased and was all through the fort and barracks. Last night he disappeared. He took with him a very fine saddle horse which belonged to Col. Luke Decker, together with a fine saddle and a pair of heavy pistols in the holsters. It was thought he went toward the Ohio river and may come near some of your stations. You had better inform your men by a courier. There is no doubt that he is a British spy and it is very desirable to capture him. A description of him given by those with whom he was, is: A heavy man, five feet ten in height: would weight about one hundred and eighty pounds; dark hair, black eyes, and he wore a fine velvet vest and a dark blue long-tailed coat both ornamented with silver buttons. A pair of fine white dressed buckskin knee breeches with silver buckles at his knee; a pair of fine leather shoes with silver buckles; a swiveled hat, made out of beaver skin. Have your men keep a good lookout for him.

I will here again inform you that in the near future there is danger ahead if the war lasts any length of time. This lull is only the forerunner of certain stirring times. Be sure that everything is in readiness for what may come.

JOHN GIBSON

By the hand of a friendly Delaware Indian. Return him in two days with anything that you wish to say.

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

CINCINNATI 6th August 1812

Har. Pa. 648, 649

SIR:

I have this day received by express from Gov. [Charles] Scott the enclosed letter and I shall immediately obey the summons. The information received a day or two ago from Detroit is of the most unpleasant nature. The loss of Michilamacinack will be probably followed by the capture of Fort Dearborne and the suspension of offensive measures by Governor [William] Hull's army will I fear give great strength to the British party amongst the Indians. The assemblage of Indians mentioned by Governor [Ninian] Edwards upon the Illinois river is also calculated to excite apprehensions for

the safety of the settlements of Kaskaskias or Vincennes. It is however my opinion that it will be the object of the British to draw as many of the Indians as possible towards Malden to cut off the supplies from and ultimately to capture Governor Hull's army. To prevent this even if there should be no real intention of carrying on offensive operations from Vincennes or Kaskaskias feints from either or both would be highly useful to keep the Indians at home. I shall do myself the honor to write to you from Frankfort and communicate the result of the interview with Governor [Charles] Scott. The camp equipage, quarter master's stores, rifles, cavalry arms and equipments, which were ordered to New Port, have not arrived nor have they been heard of by Major [Thomas] Martin.

The difficulty of selling drafts for small sums with an account annexed as has been my practice for contingencies has induced me to draw upon you in favor of the cashier of the Miami Exporting Çompany for one hundred dollars to pay express and other expenses of the kind. There is indeed so little demad for drafts at this time that there is a great probability that money will be wanted for the Public Service in the Western Country unless it is sent from the Atlantic States.

I have the Honor to be with great respect sir
your humble servant

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

The honble.
WILLIAM EUSTIS Esq. *Secretary of War*

TAYLOR TO HARRISON

FORT HARRISON August 9th 1812

Har. Pa. 659-661

DEAR SIR:

I have been informed in the course of 2 or 3 days last past by three different Indians that Tecumseh was preparing considerable force to strike an important blow somewhere against the white people and the full of this moon was the time fixed for his commencing hostilities. It is possible his first attempt will be against this post or Vincennes. They all agree that his present force is much larger than it was last fall and one of them says that he expects a large reinforcement about the time he has fixed on for commencing his operations, prin-

cipally of Kickapoos and what he has with him at present was composed of the same tribes that were with him last fall, and that the prophet had held a council for some time past with a number of chiefs of different tribes and that there was no dependance to be placed in anything Laprusier or Stone Eater told me, for that they were in the prophets interest. Laprusier has been here frequently since my last communication for the purpose of drawing provisions but I do not comply with his requests as your instructions to the commdg. officer is to furnish those only with provisions that come on business and then sparingly which instructions I have strictly complied with. He did not appear to be very much pleased with my refusing him and sayd you told him last spring that whenever he visited the garrison he would receive provisions. if those are your wishes you have only to let me know them and they will be complied with. There is a subject I wish your opinion on viz. The cattle that is at this place which belongs to the citizens and contractor which would feed a considerable body of Indians for a month should it meet with your approbation in case the hostile intentions of the Indians are confirmed I will have the whole of them driven down to the settlement. I trust Sir I shall be pardoned for giving the above information even should it not be eventually found to be correct nor should I have troubled you on the subject if information to the same effect had not been given from a source that was more to be depended on.

I remain Dear Sir with the Greatest Respect your friend and Obt. Servt.

Z. TAYLOR *Capt. Comdg.*

His Excy. GO. HARRISON

GIBSON TO HARGROVE

VINCENNES, INDIANA TERRITORY,
August 10, 1812

Cockrum, *Pioneer History, 353*

Col. WM. HARGROVE *Commanding Mounted Rangers:*

The new men can be mustered in and the two young boys will be returned to their homes.

Two scouts from this post were at a point at the forks [White river] and saw two old Delaware Indian men who have a lone wigwam at that place. These Indians were

friendly and have been for a long time. They said that several Pottawattamies had recently been at that point and told them—'Soon we will go to the Ohio river—get heap horses—maybe get scalps—the British drive Americans away soon.'

The scouts report that there is a general movement among the Indians, a sort of nervous unrest that forebodes trouble and that the Indians did not seem to show that hearty friendship as formerly. One friendly Indian was with the scouts pretending to be a hunter, and said that if an opportunity offered, the Indians would strike our people soon.

JOHN GIBSON *Acting Governor*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

LEXINGTON KENTY. August 12th 1812

Har. Pa. 654-658

SIR:

Upon my arrival at Frankfort on Saturday last I was favored by Gov. [Charles] Scott [Ky.] with the perusal of a late Communication from Gov. Edwards [Ill.] covering a number of documents which unequivocally prove the existance of a combination amongst the Indian Tribes more formidable than any previous one. And as the only obstacle to the commencement of offensive operations on their part (the want of ammunition) has been removed by the taking of Macinac I have ordered some companies of the Indiana Militia to march from the counties bordering on the Ohio to Vincennes and they will soon be followed by a Regiment from this state. I have also informed Gov. Scott, that all the remaining quota of this state will be required for active service northwest of the Ohio. Previously to the taking of any other steps, however I have thought it proper to recur to you for further instructions and most respectfully to offer you the result of my reflections on the subject of the employment of the disposable force in this quarter of our country. As it appears from your letter of the 9th ultimo that the Govt. had determined upon offensive measures against the belligerent Indians, the first thing to be considered is the nature and extent of those measures. Two species of warfare have been used by the United States in three contests with the Tribes upon the northwestern frontier viz. rapid and desultory expeditions by mounted men having for their object the surprise and destruction of particular

villages, or the more tardy but more effectual operations of an army composed principally of Infantry penetrating the country of the enmy and securing the possession by a chain of posts. In the war which was terminated by the peace of Greenville both of these plans were used but the former as auxiliary only to the latter, which was regarded as the effectual means for procuring and preserving peace. If under present circumstances the Govt. should think proper to rely upon desultory expeditions only they would naturally be directed against those villages of the enemy which are nearest and which of course would most annoy our settlements. But the direction to be given to the efforts of an army of the other description requires more attentive consideration. In the present posture of affairs it appears to me that one of two plans which I have the honor to submit might be adopted with advantage. The first is to establish a chain of posts upon the Illinois River from the Mississippi to Chicago, and the other to march immediately a considerable body of troops to Fort Wayne. If it were certain that Genl. Hull would be able, even with the reinforcement, which is now about to be sent to him, to reduce Malden and retake Macinac there would be no necessity for sending other troops in that direction. But I greatly fear that the capture of Macinac will give such *eclat* to the British and Indian arms that the northern Tribes will pour down in swarms upon Detroit oblige Genl. Hull to act entirely upon the defensive and meet and perhaps overpower the convoys and reinforcements which may be sent him. It appears to me indeed highly probable that the large detachment which is now destined for his relief under Genl. Col. [Samuel] Wells will have to fight its way. I rely greatly upon the valour of these troops but it is possible that the event may be adverse to us and if it is, Detroit must fall, and with it every hope of reestablishing our affairs in that quarter untill the next year. I am also apprehensive that the provisions which are to be sent with Col. Wells are by no means equal to the supply of the army, for any length of time, encreased as it will be by his detachment, they must then depend upon smaller convoys which can never reach their destination in safety, if the British and Indians think proper to prevent it. Commanding as they do the navigation of the Lake, the British can with the utmost facility transfer their force from one side to the other, meet our Detachments

and overpower them if they are small, whilst performing a labourious and circuitous march through a swampy country, at any point they think proper. To prevent these disasters or to remedy them should they occur, a considerable covering army appears to me to be the only alternative. For should any of my apprehensions be realized it is out of the question to suppose that troops could be collected in time to render them any essential service. There is another consideration which strongly recommends the adoption of this measure. I mean the situation of Chicago which must be in danger, and if it is not well supplied with provisions the danger must be imminent. It is possible Sir that everything may yet go on well that no considerable number of Indians may be collected at Malden and that our Detachments and convoys may reach their destination in safety, the reverse however appears to me to be the most proabable, and I am fully persuaded, that the opinions and wishes of the people in the western country are unanimously in favour of the most vigourous and effectual measures. In this state particularly the spirit of the people is aroused to the highest pitch and the Govt. may rely upon the utmost efforts. To be furnished with arms and to be allowed to exert their energies, to establish our affairs upon the north western frontier is extremely desired by every description of persons. Our army going in the proposed direction particularly if it was sent to Fort Wayne, would serve as a considerable check upon the tribes of the Wabash and those to the west and south of Lake Michigan. Supplies could be easily procured in the highly cultivated part of Ohio between the Miami and Scioto Rivers. If the plan here proposed should be adopted, some display of military force by way of feint would be highly useful, both at Vincennes and in the neighbourhood of Cahokia or St. Louis, Indeed some troops are necessary for the defense of those places and the adjacent settlement.

The only objection to the scheme of erecting a chain of Posts from the Mississippi to Chicago arises from the lateness of the season, which would perhaps render it impossible to collect the supplies, which are necessary for the very large force that this expedition would require. It cannot be undertaken with a probability of success with less than 5000 men. Moving in the manner proposed the Indians would be apprised of the ob-

ject and there can be no doubt that every effort would be made to defeat it and as little, that they would be enabled to collect a force at least equal to that which I have stated as the necessary amt. of ours. If the advanced season should prevent the plan from being completed it might at least be so far effected as to occupy Peoria (an important point) erect an intermediate post between it and the mouth of the Illinois River. A slight inspection of the map of that country and a reference to the position of the several tribes will at once explain the great advantages to be derived from the prosecution of this plan. It would as completely cover our settlements as a chain of posts could cover them, and it would have the effect so highly desirable of bringing the Indian tribes to a general and decisive action.

From the inclosed letter Capt. [William] Wells [July 22, above] it appears that the Prophet had abandonned all Idea of remaining upon the Wabash and that it was his intention to retire after making a stroke at our settlements to the country of the Winebagoes. As the orders of Tecumseh were given however under the impression that Malden would shortly fall into our hands it is highly probable that the procrastination of that event, and the suspension of offensive operations upon the part of Genl. Hull's army has inspired them with other hopes, and given rise to other schemes. If this should be the case and he remains upon the Wabash and neither of the other plans which I have recommended are adopted, a second expedition against him, might be undertaken from Vincennes, or the driving him off might form a part of the plan to be executed by the army proposed to be collected at Fort Wayne. With the opinion which I entertain of the situation of affairs at Detroit I give a decided preference to the Fort Wayne expedition. I do think it highly probable that the Indians have been collected in very considerable numbers to relieve their friend at Malden. But I have no farther evidence of it nor indeed of the extensive combination which I supposed to exist among the Indian Tribes, than what is or will be before you at the time you receive this.

Your favour of the 9th Inst. I have submitted to Gov. Scott, Mr. [Henry] Clay Mr. Bledsoe[1] and other conspicuous friends

1. Jesse Bledsoe was born Apr. 6, 1776, in Culpepper Co., Va. Came as a boy to Lexington, Ky. Graduated from Transylvania. Sec. of State under Gov. Scott at this time. Later, professor of law at Transylvania. Collins, *Kentucky*, 203

of the administration and they have all recommended that I should not put any other part of the troops in motion untill I hear from you excepting the few companies that have been ordered for the protection of Vincennes. Should the Govt. think proper to authorize the employment of a larger force than the amt. of the quota ordered from this State no fears need be entertained of its not being obtained. I will pledge myself to raise in ten days two thousand men for any expedition which may be authorized totally independent of the Regular Militia or of the quota which has been organized. I am constantly solicited to suffer independent companies to be raised of both horse and infantry. I should be thankful to be informed of the proportion of cavalry that will be allowed for any expedition which I may command. It is a description of force to which I am very partial in Indian warfare. If a sufficiency of swords and pistols cannot be procured I would recommend that some of the Dragoon Companies be armed with the small rifles now used by the United States Rifle Corps.

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir yr. Humb. Svt.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

P. S. I set out today for Louisville but shall not return to Vincennes unless I receive positive information which may make my presence there necessary until I receive an answer to this letter. Any communication for me had parhaps better be directed to the postmaster here who will forward it to me if I should not return before it arrives.

W. H. H.

The Honble. WILLM. EUSTIS Esqr. *Secy. of War*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

LOUISVILLE KY. 18th Augt. 1812

Har. Pa. 662-666

SIR:

The Regiment of the Kentucky volunteers [Wilcox, Miller and Barbour] destined for Vincennes Rendezvoused at this place yesterday. The pressing engagements of Gov. Scott previously to his leaving his office which takes place in a few days and the occupation of Genl. [Zachary] Taylor's agent (the pay master of the District) at the Rendezvous of the Detachment destined for Detroit induced the Governor to put

this Regiment entirely under my control and to leave to me the preparations necessary for the prosecution of their march. Amongst the most difficult of these is the procuring the means and making them an advance of two months pay. The first has been gotten over by the offer of the Bank here to advance the necessary sum. But as we have no correct information as to the precise amount of the two months allowance of clothing it has been determined to pay the men ten dollars apiece only. The paymaster of the Regiment is now making the estimate which will be forwarded by this or the ensuing mail and the money will be procured by drafts drawn by him and endorsed by me. I have the Honor to enclose his Bond for the faithful discharge of the duties of his office. He is personally a stranger to me but is highly spoken of and either of his securities are equal to the payment of the penalty of the Bond.

I have the Honor to enclose you an original letter from Capt. Taylor the Commandant of Fort Harrison which was sent to me by Express. [August 9 above] A gentleman immediately from Vincennes informs me that the citizens there are under great alarm and that information received from every quarter corroborates the account of the intended attack. I have sent off one company from the Indiana Regiment of Militia adjacent to this place and have agreed to dismiss them in a month on condition of providing themselves with horses. When the Regiment now here marches to Vincennes it will, with the militia of the Territory already ordered out, be amply sufficient for the defence of that settlement. But I fear that Col. [Joseph] Wilcox[1] will not be able to leave Jeffersonville until the 20th Inst. I have not *been able* to procure any tents for the troops the country being entirely exhausted of materials for making them by furnishing the Regiments destined for Detroit. They are also entirely destitute of canteens all these articles are understood to be on the way from Pittsburg but they had not arrived at New Port on the 15th Inst. I have directed Lieut. [James W.] Bryson[2] to forward a proper proportion of the Equipments and Camp equipages as soon as he receives them and I shall have them escorted to Vincennes by

1. Joseph Wilcox was born and reared in Dublin, Ireland. On account of political troubles he left Ireland and came to America; entering the army in time to take part in the War of 1812. He was killed leading a charge at Fort Erie, Aug. 4, 1814.
Niles' Register VII, App. 25

2. James Washington Bryson enlisted from Pa. Apr. 23, 1808, as ensign in the First Inf. After serving through the War of 1812 he was discharged June 15, 1815.

a company of militia to be left for that purpose. As there was not more powder in the arsenal of New Port than the quantity necessary to supply Genl. Hulls order I have caused 1000 lbs. to be purchased here. In my letter of the 10th inst. I observed "that it has been determined in a consultation with the friends of the administration that it would be better to suspend the marching of any more of the militia of the Kentucky Quota until your further directions should be received or some further indications of hostility on the part of the Indians should make it necessary". Upon my return to Frankfort however a further consultation with Genl. Scott took place and upon a representation being made by one of the Colonels in writing stating that it would be utterly impossible to collect the Troops time enough for any offensive operations this fall unless the order for their assembling should be soon given we both united in opinion that it would be neecesary upon the uncertainty of their being wanted that a distant day should be appointed for their Rendezvous at their different posts. They day fixed upon is the first September and the places designated are Frankfort, Louisville and Henderson (Red Banks) the former for the Cavalry and two regiments of infantry and at each of the other one regiment of infantry. If none or a part only of those troops should be wanted they can be disbanded and the only consequences will be some disappointment in the men but if they had not been ordered to assemble and there should be occasion for their services some time in September it would have been found to be almost impossible to get them to any distant scene of action until the season for such operations would have been too far advanced. Should the hopes which have been formed of the favourable effects of the Council of Piqua not be realized the government at the moment which shall ascertain its failure will have at its disposal a formidable force ready to take the Field. And the points of Rendezvous have been so fixed as to give as great a choice as was possible as to the direction in which it may be needed. These were my motives Sir for calling upon Gov. Scott under the authority of your letter of the 9th ultimo requesting him to cause the remaining part of the militia quota of this state to be in readiness to march and rendezvous as above mentioned.

Genl. Winchester has accepted of a troop of twelve months volunteer Dragoons from this state. There are two others

of that description that have tendered themselves to me under Captains Quarles and [David] Tremble. Having no authority to accept them I have turned them over to Gov. Scott who will send on their Polls and the names of the officers for commissions. I have assured these gentlemen however that they will certainly be employed. They will serve either as the Dragoons or as Mounted Riflemen.

I have the Honor to be with great respect Sir your Obt. Svt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble. WILLM. EUSTIS Esqr. *Secty of war*

GIBSON TO HARGROVE

VINCENNES, INDIANA TERRITORY,
August 20, 1812

Cockrum, *Pioneer History, 359*

Colonel WM. HARGROVE, *Commanding Mounted Rangers:*

General Harrison has been commissioned Major General by the Governor of Kentucky and placed in command of the militia of that state, who are ordered to report to him in this territory.[1] There will soon be a large number of troops crossing the Ohio river into this Territory. This apparent security will not in the least change your duties. The men under your command will still keep up the same vigilance. The militia of this Territory will in a great measure leave for the north. Then our force of able-bodied men will be much reduced and it will be necessary to carefully watch every point of our frontier.

JOHN GIBSON, *Acting Governor*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT August 22d, 1812

Har. Pa. 20, 21

Br. General W. H. HARRISON SIR:

Your letters of July 28th & 12th [see above] Instant have been received.

Herewith inclosed you will receive the appointment of

1. News of the surrender of Hull and the approach of a crisis induced this move by the Kentucky governor. Governor Scott's term of office lacked only a few days of expiring but the appointment was made not only with Governor Shelby's consent but after calling a caucus of the leading men of the state including Henry Clay, federal judge Thomas Todd and others. The commission is dated August 25.

Brigadier General. A commission cannot be forwarded until the meeting of Congress, when the appointment will be laid before the Senate for their confirmation. [Confirmed Dec. 2, 1812]

The western frontier of Indiana and Illinois will be embraced in your Command, extending to a cooperation with General Hull [Hull had surrendered 6 days before] in Canada & with Governor [Benjamin] Howard in the Missouri Territory, at such points as in your opinion the public Service may require. It is desirable that you should correspond & consult with the Governors of Illinois & Missouri, relative to military operations within their Territories.

The Governors of Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Illinois and Indiana, will be directed to furnish Volunteers & militia, on your requisition, in such numbers as the Service may in your judgment require.

The Regular Troops, Rangers & Recruits in those Territories are subject to such disposition as you may please to direct.

Should you accept the command you will enter immediately upon the duties of the office and accept & organize Volunteers & militia. You will be governed by the movements of the Indians, & the operations of the Enemy in the Vicinity, according to your own discretion & the orders you may hereafter receive.

Thomas Buford Esq. Depy. Commissary at Lancaster Ky. [2] has been furnished with funds & will be directed to make such purchases as you may order. Major [Thomas] Marten, Military Storekeeper, & Lieut. [James W.] Bryson, Asst. Depr. Qr. Master at Newport will be notified of your appointment & made subject to your orders. Copies of the contracts within your command are herewith inclosed.

Secretary of War to Harrison

War Department August 22d, 1812

Har. Pa. 22

Br. General Wm. Harrison Sir

I have the honor to inform you that the President has been pleased to appoint you a Brigadier General in the Army of the United States.

CHAMBERS TO PROCTOR

DETROIT 24th August 1812

Wood, *Canadian War of 1812, 498*

SIR

In conformity to your Orders I on the 19th Instant proceeded in a Batteau to the River au Raisins at which place I arrived on the following day. on my arrival I met with Captain [Matthew] Elliott of the Essex Militia, who had collected and Embarked all the Arms, and secured such Stores as remained in the House of Mr. Lascelles, I then Effectually destroyed the Two Block Houses, which were surrounded by a Strong Stoccade and capable of Making a vigorous Resistance: this with my Instructions assured the Inhabitants of the Effectual Protection of his Majestys Government. But it is with Extreme Mortification I feel myself compelled to state, that notwithstanding every Effort on my Part, to Insure it to them so strong was the disposition on the part of the Indians in Particular the Wyandotts, to Pillage Ravage and destroy, that I could not Succeed, scarcely a House in that Settlement having escaped Pillage.

Indeed it was an Universal scene of desolation.

You may Easily conceive Sir with what repugnance to my feelings, I was constrained to Witness Scenes so disgraceful to Humanity and which I do not Hesitate to say might have been in a great Measure prevented had the Proper officers Exerted the Necessary Controul, but I am Compelled by a Sense of duty to state that it was with the Utmost difficulty, I could prevail on any of them to interfere and when they did it was with so little Interest it was of no avail. I must however in Justice to Major [Alexander] McKee say that He exerted himself to put a Stop to scenes so shocking and disgusting.

The Next Morning I proceeded to the Foot of the Rapids of the Miamis to accomplish the Object of my Mission. I then saw the Block House destroyed and Embarked the Public property found.

I am sorry to say the same Ravages took place there as at the River au Raisins notwithstanding my utmost Efforts to prevent it. It affords me great pleasure to say that the Conduct of Tecumthe the Shawanoe Warior and Round Head of the Wyandotts, was such as to reflect on them the Highest

Honor. I enclose a return of the property found. I omitted to mention that the Indians murdered and Scalped one of the Canadians who belonged to the Gun Boat Commanded by Lt. Bender and fired three Shots at another.

I have the Honor to be Sir,

Your Most Obedient, Humble Servant

PETER LATOUCHE CHAMBERS *Major & Capt. 41st Rt.*

To General PROCTOR

GENERAL ORDERS

HEADQUARTERS, August 28, 1812

McAfee, *The Late War, 118*

The troops will continue their march in the direction of Dayton by the way of Lebanon, at an early hour on to-morrow morning.

The commandants of the several corps will at every convenient opportunity commence drilling their men to the performance of the evolutions, contemplated by the commander in chief for the order of march and battle. The principal feature in all these evolutions, is that of a battalion changing its direction, by swinging round on its centre. This however is not to be done by wheeling, which by a large body in the woods, is impracticable. It is to be performed thus: the battalion being on its march in a single rank, and its centre being ascertained, the front division, comes to the right about, excepting the men in the rear of that division, who steps two feet to the right; at the same time the front man of the second division, takes a position about six feet to the left of the man in the rear of the front division, and dresses with him in a line at right angles to the line of march. These two men acting as markers or guides for the formation of the new alignment, at the word "form the new alignment—march," the men of the front, file round their guide and form in succession on his right. At the same time the men of the rear division, file up in succession to the left of the guide, and dress in a line with him and the guide of the front division. This manoeuvre may be performed by any number of men—by company and platoon as well as by battalion.

WM. H. HARRISON, *Maj. Gen. Commanding*

GIBSON TO HARGROVE

VINCENNES, INDIANA TERRITORY,
August 28, 1812

Cockrum, *Pioneer History, 359*

Colonel WM. HARGROVE,[1]
Commanding Mounted Ranger of Indiana Territory:

General Hull ingloriously and cowardly surrendered Detroit and two thousand troops to the British on the 15th inst. It is feared that this success on the part of the British will cause the Indians who have been apparently friendly to go to their standard. There is no doubt of the ultimate outcome of this war, but there seems to be much incompetency in high places.

JOHN GIBSON, *Acting Governor*

SHELBY TO HARRISON

FRANKFORT, KY., Aug. 28, 1812

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book A", page 1

His Excellency,
WILLIAM H. HARRISON
DEAR SIR:

Since you left here and my having given orders for the rendezvous of the two regiments under the command of Col. Jennings and Barbee to be at Newport, from an inspection of Gov. Edward's letter, together with some information communicated from Vincennes, published in yesterday's *palladium*, giving an account of a strong force of Indians who meditate a blow on that quarter, and having been credibly informed that 1,500 Ohio Volunteers have proceeded from Urbana toward Detroit, I have concluded to change the rendezvous of those two regiments, to this place and retain them here until further information shall be received from the government or the territories showing how they should be employed. I have been influenced also to adopt this course from the con-

1. The following incident may refer to Captain Hargrove:

In the month of December, 1786, a body of Indians defeated a small party of whites, at the mouth of Buck creek, under the command of Captain Hargrove. The Indians made their attack in the night, killed one man, and severely wounded Hargrove. An Indian, who had probably fired his rifle, made an onset on Captain Hargrove with his tomahawk, and a fierce encounter ensued. Each party exerted himself to the utmost. Hargrove finally succeeded in wresting the tomahawk from the hand of the Indian, and bore it off.

Collins, *Kentucky, 499*

sideration that these troops can not possibly arrive in time to join your detachment or afford relief to Detroit, if it has not fallen, or if it has, as is rumored, but which there is great reason to disbelieve, it does not appear to me likely they can be marched there in time for any other operation. And this point should they be ordered on as part of a reserve toward that quarter, is but little out of their way. Should they be required to march toward the Wabash or Illinois it is also nearly in their route.

Indeed it would seem to me that a pretty strong movement in one of the latter directions will become necessary, whether Detroit has fallen or not, to make a diversion and protect the territories.

But it is not my intention to proceed to any definite measure without some authority on the subject, which is expected will soon be received by mail in the dispatches to you or the orders to the Governor of this State. And should these troops with others be needed to carry on offensive operations against the Indians under your directions, it does not appear to me how they could be employed without such direction. You will, of course, perceive the necessity of an early attention to this subject as well for their destination as equipment and subsistence. To that end I shall endeavor to give you the earliest possible information received by me from the Secretary of War.

With, &c., &c.,

ISAAC SHELBY

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT, August 28th, 1812

Har. Pa. 23, 24

Br. General WM. H. HARRISON
Lexington, Ky.

SIR:

The objects of your command and of the force authorized in my Letter of the 22d Instant are to restore peace with the Indians, afford effectual protection to the whole of our Northwestern frontier, to disperse any combination of a hostile nature, to demand of the Pottawattomies, Winnebagoes, Shawoenese, & Kickapoos the murderers of our citizens and in case of refusal or longer delay in delivering them up, to punish the Tribes to which they belong, and to aid & cooperate

as far as may be practicable, with our other forces, particularly those under General [William] Hull. [The latter had surrendered two weeks before]

You may find it necessary to move a force of Fifteen hundred men from the mouth of Kentucky in a direction for the Wabash and another force of an equal number from the neighborhood of St. Louis in the direction for the Illinois. These forces may form a junction, or be otherwise disposed of as circumstances may require. Such part of the Troops will be mounted as you shall determine to be necessary. As the number and disposition of the Savages will be best known to you, and as the force required to act against them must depend on these circumstances, the foregoing outline is suggested solely for your consideration. The numbers, description & disposition of your force, including the disposable Rangers & Regular Troops, will be determined by you and directed to such points, as in your judgment shall be best calculated to effect the objects of your Command.

The proceedings of the Council at Piqua[1] are not yet known to this Department—it will be necessary you should inform yourself of the Result, as your arrangements and operations will probably be governed in some degree by the Report of the Commissioners.

No time is to be lost, and as it is presumed you have already on the authority before given, made your arrangements, it remains to execute them with that promptness and Vigor which the occasion requires.

1. "The various tribes of Indians bordering on our frontiers, were invited to a general council to be held at Piqua on the 15th of August. They were requested to bring their families, and kindle a great council fire; and the most beneficial results were anticipated. Governor Meigs, Thomas Worthington and Jeremiah Morrow esqrs. were appointed commissioners. They repaired to Piqua at the time appointed; but our disasters and the intrigues of the British completely defeated the plans of the government. The Shawanoese brought their families; the Wyandots of Sandusky, the Mingoes, some Delawares and Ottawas, and a few Miamies attended. A large body of Miamies came 5 miles on this (south) side of Fort Wayne, where they halted till they received information of the massacre of the garrison of Chicago, and the surrender of Macinaw and Detroit, when they returned and aided the Potawatamies in the siege of Fort Wayne. Those who attended professed great friendship; but little reliance however was placed on any of them, except the Shawanoese and Wyandots, who still possessed some integrity. They had been induced to believe, that the Americans by inviting them to bring their women and children, intended to get them all in their power, and then massacre the whole." McAfee, History of the Late War in the Western Country, 111, 112.

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

CINCINNATI 28th Aug. 1812

Har. Pa. 667-671

SIR:

Before this reaches you a dispatch from the Governor of Kentucky to yourself and another from the Honble Mr. [Henry] Clay to the Secretary of State will have arrived at Washington communicating the circumstances which occasion my having the honor to address you from this place. Being at Frankfort on the 24th inst. making arrangements for the eventual march of the residue of the Kentucky quota to the Indiana and Michigan territories an express arrived at that place with dispatches for Governor [Charles] Scott containing information of Gov. Hull's being shut up in Detroit and the probability of his being obliged to surrender unless immediately relieved. Upon a consultation with Governor Scott it was thought advisable as he was the next day to go out of office, to wait the arrival of his successor Gov. [Isaac] Shelby[1] and to request the advice and assistance of all the principal public characters of the state within reach, and expresses were sent to solicit their attendance on the next day. The meeting accordingly took place, consisting of Gov. Shelby, the former Governor [Christopher] Greenup,[2] the speaker of the house of representatives of the U. States, [Clay] several other members of Congress, the Judges of the United States and of the Supreme courts of the State, General [Samuel] Hopkins, the Major General of the Kentucky Quota, and it was unanimously recommended to Governor Scott to order another detachment of the state quota to follow the one which had marched under General [John] Payne to request me to take the command of the whole and for the purpose of removing all difficulties to give me a commission of Major General by Brevet of the Kentucky militia. I could not permit myself to hesitate when urged by an authority so highly respectable especially when

1. Isaac Shelby was of Welch descent, born near Hagerstown, Md., Dec. 11, 1750. He served at Point Pleasant October 10, 1774, where his father, Gen. Evan Shelby, commanded. He served throughout the Revolution, especially at King's Mountain. He was in Ky. 1775 surveyor for Henderson. He aided Harrison in every way and at the critical moment joined him at the front. Their friendship and co-operation is one of the most beautiful incidents of the war. Congress voted him a medal for the battle of the Thames. He died July 18, 1826.

Collins, *Kentucky, 523.* Lewis Collins, the historian, served under him.

2. For a biography of Gov. Christopher Greenup see Collins, *Kentucky, 332.*

assured by the large concourse of citizens from all parts of the state, who had collected on account of the inauguration of the new Governor that it was the unanimous wish of the people of Kentucky that I should do so. Before I left Frankfort Gov. Shelby urged the propriety of sending one regiment more to Newport than was at first intended, And fearing of the fall of Detroit, a few miles from that place (Frankfort) sent back and recommended still another. My command then consists of three regiments of Kentucky troops Col. [Samuel] Wells' detachment and a troop of twelve months' volunteers making an aggregate of about two thousand one hundred men at this place, and three regiments of Infantry, five troops of Dragoons, and five hundred mounted volunteer riflemen on their way to join me. Those that first arrive will not however be here before the 30th inst. and it will be impossible to get them from here for some days after. Until this day I had some hope that the account of the fall of Detroit was not true. But a letter which was received a few hours ago from Messrs. [Thomas] Worthington[3] and [Return J.] Meigs[4] by Col. Wells leaves no longer room for doubt. Three persons of the quartermaster department have returned to Piqua who were in Detroit when it was surrendered. The object of the letter from Messrs. Worthington and Meigs was to request Col. Wells to hasten his march and to take the route by Dayton and Piqua rather than the direct one to Urbanna, for the purpose of relieving Fort Wayne, which was said to be in danger of an immediate attack.

By a gentleman who has this moment arrived from Piqua the taking of Chicago and the massacre of the garrison is also put beyond doubt. Poor [William] Wells has also perished in endeavouring to save Capt. [Nathaniel] Heald with his company. I shall march tomorrow morning with the troop that I have here taking the route of [?] and Piqua. The relief of Fort Wayne will be my first object and my after operations will be governed by circumstances until I receive your directions.

Considering my command as merely provisional, I shall cheerfully conform to any other arrangement which the Government may think proper to make. The troops which I have

3. Thomas Worthington, see Randall, *History of Ohio, Index.*

4. Return Jonathan Meigs, governor of Ohio at the time; see Randall, *History of Ohio, Index.*

with me and those which are coming on from Kentucky are perhaps the best materials for forming an army that the world has produced. But no equal number of men were ever collected who knew so little of military discipline. Nor have I any assistant who can give me the least aid in training them (if even there were time for it) but Capt. [Nathaniel F.] Adams of the 4th Regiment who was left here sick and whom I have appointed Deputy Adjutant General until the pleasure of the President can be known. He is well qualified and I hope the appointment will be confirmed. You may rely Sir on my utmost exertions. But the confusion which exists in every Department connected with the army is such as can only be expected from men who are perfectly new to the business they are engaged in. No arms for cavalry have yet arrived at New Port and I shall be forced to put muskets in the hands of all the dragoons. I have written to the quarter-master at Pittsburgh to request him to forward all the supplies of arms, equipments and quartermasters' stores as soon as possible. I have also requested him to send down four or five pieces of artillery without waiting for your orders and expect your instructions as to further number. There is but one piece of artillery an iron four pounder anywhere that I can hear of in this country. If it is intended to retake the Posts we have lost and reduce Malden this season the artillery must be sent on as soon as possible. There is no longer a possibility of getting money for drafts in this country. The paymaster (Genl. [James] Taylor's deputy) still continues to act. I have been obliged to agree with the bank here (called the Miami Exporting Company) that the U. States shall be at the expence and risk of sending on the specie for the drafts that are now given for the pay of the troops that are coming on and for the quarter master's department. I think it proper however to state that until very lately General Taylor has made the bank pay a premium of one and one and a half per centum on all his bills. I will obtain a particular statement from the bank in order that he may be charged with it. Permit me to recommend that the monies received here by the Receiver of the Land office be deposited in the bank of the Miami Exporting Company. It is now sent to Lexington and the bank here is quite as safe as that of Lexington. I herewith enclose a receipt of the Surgeon and another of the quarter master of the regiment which is gone to Vincennes for supplies furnished

them. The bonds given by the paymaster and quarter master were found after they came into my possession not to have been witnessed. They were sent on to Vincennes to have the mistake rectified and will be forwarded to the war office. I write this, Sir, under the inconvenience of considerable interruptions. When I advance a few days I will do myself the honor to communicate all the information which I receive, my opinion of the state of affairs, and submit the result of my reflections as to the course to be pursued.

With sentiments of Respect I have the honor to be Sir, Yr. Obt. Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble. WILLIAM EUSTIS esqr. *Secretary of War*

JOHN GIBSON ALIEN RESIDENTS

TERRITORY OF INDIANA Secretary's Office,
VINCENNES, August 28, 1812

Western Sun, Oct. 20, 1812

For the information of those concerned, I publish, subjoined hereto, in obedience to orders received from the department of state, two acts of Congress, the one entitled "An act respecting alien enemies" approved sixth July, one thousand seven hundred and ninety eight—the other "An act supplementary to the act entitled 'An act, respecting alien enemies'" approved sixth July, eighteen hundred and twelve.

It is moreover required by these orders that all British subjects within this territory make forthwith, to the undersigned, their respective reports in writing, in which shall be truly stated: their age; the time they have been in the United States or in this territory; the persons composing their families; the places of their residence, and their occupations and pursuits; and at what time, if ever, they applied to the courts preparatory to their naturalization.

For the county of Knox, these reports must be made personally to the undersigned; but for the accommodation of those who reside at a distance, I have appointed the following persons to receive them:

For the county of Harrison, John Hurst.

For the county of Clark, James Lemon.[1]

1. James Lemon was a soldier under Geo. Rogers Clark. Settled in Clark's Grant Jan. 25, 1806, he was appointed justice of the peace; Aug. 16 a second Lieut. in the militia; July 10, 1811, sheriff, serving till Dec. 29, 1813.

For the county of Jefferson, John Paul.
For the county of Dearborn, James Dill.
For the county of Franklin, Jas. Noble.
For the county of Wayne, Geo. Hunt.

These gentlemen will please transmit to this office, every week by mail, the reports which they may receive, carefully retaining copies thereof.

JOHN GIBSON, *Acting Governor*

BROCK TO LORD LIVERPOOL

UPPER YORK, CANADA,
Aug. 29, 1812

Wood, *Canadian War of 1812, 508*

[TO LORD LIVERPOOL]

Among the Indians whom I found at Amherstburg, and who had arrived from distant parts of the country, I found some extraordinary characters. He who attracted most my attention was a Shawnee chief, Tecumset, brother to the Prophet, who for the last two years has carried on (contrary to our remonstrances) an Active Warfare against the United States —a more sagacious or a more gallant Warrior does not I believe exist. He was the admiration of every one who conversed with him: from a life of dissipation he is not only become, in every respect, abstemious but has likewise prevailed on all his nation and many of other Tribes to follow his example. They appear determined to continue the contest until they obtain the Ohio for a boundary. The United States Government is accused, and I believe justly, of having corrupted a few dissolute characters whom they pretended to consider as chiefs and with whom they contracted engagements and concluded Treaties, which they have attempted to impose on the whole Indian race. Their determined opposition to such ficticious and ruinous pretensions, which if admitted would soon oblige the Indians to remove beyond the Mississippi, is the true ground of their enmity against the Americans. The jealousy with which they view the British Merchants continue their commercial intercourse with the Indians has likewise been attended with serious inconvenience. Under the difficulty the Merchant experienced few goods could be introduced into the interior, and their own measures, the operation of the non intercourse, pre-

cluded even their own people from furnishing the Indians with clothing of the first necessity. The consequence has been fatal to many. Deprived of ammunition the poor Indian was unable to provide the necessary quantity of food or even cover his nakedness with the skins of animals. The Armistice concluded between His Excellency L. Gen. Sir George Prevost and General Dearborne, has suspended all active operations. However wise and politic the measure must be admitted to be, the Indians who cannot enter into our views will naturally feel disheartened and suspicious of our intentions. Should hostilities recommence I much fear the influence the British posses over them will be found diminished: no effort however of mine shall be wanting to keep them attached to our cause. If the condition of this people could be considered in any future negotiation for peace, it would attach them to us forever. The reinforcements lately arrived from the Lower Province places this portion of the country beyond the likelihood of an attack. The enemy must encrease his present force considerable before he can hazard an Invasion with a view of keeping possession of the country. [Extract]

I have the honor to be, My Lord &. &

(Signed) ISAAC BROCK *M. C. & President*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

CINCINNATI OHIO 29th August 1812

Har. Pa. 872-875

SIR:

I did myself the honor to write to you yesterday and dispatch the letter [see above] by an express hoping that he would be able to overtake the mail at Chilicothe. The troops marched this morning for Piqua. I shall follow and overtake them tomorrow. Another letter was received from Genl. [Thomas] Worthington last night covering one from Capt. [James] Rhea[1] of Fort Wayne stating that a large body of

1. James Rhea of New Jersey joined the army as a Lieut. in 1791; promoted to captaincy in 1807 and resigned by request Dec. 31, 1812. He took command at Fort Wayne in 1810, succeeding Nathaniel Heald who was transferred to Fort Dearborn. He was accused of drunkenness and seems to have been a poor soldier. Harrison arrested him but permitted him to resign and escape a court-martial.

Griswold, *Fort Wayne, Index*

Indians were there and he expected to be attacked that night. I shall lose not a moment in marching to his relief and I think

it more than probable that we shall have to encounter all the Indians who assisted at the taking of Detroit, those to whom chicago was surrendered and a very large number of others who will be induced by the same fame of these exploits to join the hostile party.

Permit me to recommend that a considerable supply of tents, swords and pistols, camp kettles, cartridge boxes, rifles, flints, and artificers tools of every description be forwarded immediately as well as the artillery and every species of ordnance stores. Medicine, instruments and hospital stores of every description will also be wanted for the large force which it will require to reinstate our affairs upon the northwestern fronter. It is important I think that some disciplined troops should also be sent here. A company or two of artillery and an experienced engineer will be indispensible.

I have caused a traveling forge to be purchased and ammunition waggons are now building. It appeared to me Sir, necessary that some one should undertake the general direction of affairs here and I have done it. The critical situation in this country in my opinion, authorized a departure from the common line of proceedure (to wait for orders) and should it be considered by the Government to have been improper I shall I hope be pardoned for the purity of my motives.

You may rely upon it Sir that the western country was never so agitated by alarm and mortification as at this time.

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir, Yr. Humb. Servt.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

The Honble WILLIAM EUSTIS Esqr. *Secretary of War*

P. S. I must again observe that considering my situation provisional only I shall cheerfully acquiesce in any arrangement which the President may make and shall not think that I have the least right to complain at being removed from it. There is no direct mail from Chilicothe to Piqua. Letters to me therefore should be sent from the former by express.

Received Louisville 21st August 1812. of Gov. William Henry Harrison nineteen kegs gun powder containing one thousand pounds and thirty camp kettles for which I have signed duplicate receipts.

THO. S. WINGATE *Quartermaster 8th Regt. Kentucky Vol.*

Received Louisville 22d August 1812 of Govern. William Henry Harrison three casks and a box containing the following articles viz. 10 gallons vinegar 101" sugar 20 chocolate 1" gingers 1" allspice 5" tea and 13¾ Gallons French Brandy for which I have signed duplicate receipts.

J. A. WRIGHT

THOMAS B. CHARLTON *Surgeon 8th Regt. Kentucky M.*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT August 30th, 1812

Har. Pa. 25, 26

SIR:

Since my Letters of the 22d & 28th Instant inofficial accounts have been received of the defeat of General Hull & of the surrender of the important post of Detroit. This disaster opens a new scene and may require a change in your operations.

Fort Dearborn with our other Posts, will claim your attention.

You will extend your eye over all the circumstances, & communicate with General [James] Winchester, or officer commanding the Troops from Kentucky. It is left to your discretion to join him with any part of the force under your Command, and to afford such other aid and cooperation as may be in your power.

Br. General
WM. H. HARRISON
Lexington, Ky.

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT Sept. 1, 1812

Har. Pa. 27

SIR:

It is the determination of the President to regain the ground which has been lost by the Surrender of Detroit & the army under General Hull, and to prosecute with increased vigor the important object of the campaign. The protection of the Frontier claims a primary attention. After having provided effectually for the security of the frontier of the Territories, and provided a competent officer can be found to execute the

command lately designated for you, it is extremely desirable that you should join General Winchester, commanding the Troops destined to reinforce General Hull, with a force from Kentucky, as large as circumstances may permit. In case you shall not be able to join him, you will by your movements cooperate with him as far as may be in your power. A field Officer of the Artillery is dispatched to Pittsburg to forward ammunition and other supplies. A Reinforcement of Fifteen hundred men from the State of Pennsylvania, and of the same number from Virginia has been ordered to join General Winchester. Efforts are also making to obtain the command of the Lakes. By the mail of this Evening I have time only to add the Respect with which I am &c.

Br. General, WM. H. HARRISON

PROCLAMATION CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

PIQUA, September 2d, 1812

Har. Pa. 680

FELLOW-CITIZENS

At a moment like this I appeal to your valor and patriotism. Maj. Gen. Harrison will rendezvous a respectable force of Kentucky Volunteers at Dayton on the 15th inst. for a short expedition. Genl. Harrison desires to add to his troops any number of Volunteers from the state of Ohio who will serve on an expedition not exceeding thirty days. All those who will embrace this favorable opportunity of distinguishing themselves under an able commander, and of rendering to the state of Ohio a valuable service, will in their equipments and movements follow the directions of General Harrison hereto subjoined.

R. J. MEIGS *Gov. Ohio*

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Any number of volunteers, mounted and prepared for active service to continue for twenty-five or thirty days, will be accepted to rendezvous at the towns of Dayton, on the Big Miami on the 15th inst. It is expected that the Volunteers will provide themselves with salt provisions and a proportion of biscuits. Those brave men who may give their services on this occasion may be assured that an opportunity of distin-

guishing themselves will be afforded. I shall command the expedition in person; and the number of troops employed will be entirely adequate to the object proposed.

I wish also to hire a number of substantial horses. Fifty cents per day will be allowed for each horse which is provided with saddle and bridle. Those patriotic citizens who are unable to afford their personal subsistance, will render essential service to their country by furnishing the horses, which must be delivered in Dayton on the 14th inst. to a person who will be authorized to receive and receipt for them.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

MCJUNKIN FERRIAGE

September 1812

Mss. in Indiana State Library

The Genl Government Dr to John McJunkin for ferriage of 120 men called into actual service by Genl Gibson on the 9th day of Sept 1812 $15-00

The above acct is Due to John McJunkin

Certified By ROBT. M. EVANS *Col 4th Regt I. M.*

September 11 1812

Thi is too seryfy that John McJonkin has Freid my Company Concinting of Eighteen Men and horse given onder my hand

THOS SPENCER *C'pt*[1]

September the 03

This is to certify that Jhon McJunkin at a nother time ferried a 11 men more of My men and horses on thare way to the army at vincins givin under my hand this day and date above mentined

THOS SPENCER *Cpt*

Crosed at Mr John McJunkin ferry Twelve Melition men under my Command on a tower of Duety in Pesuance to an order to me Directed for Which I Sartify that no Ferage was Paid in Testimony Where of I have hereun to Set my hand and Seal this 13th Day of Sept 1812

SAMUEL R. MORRIS *Capt 3th B 4th R I. S. M.*

1. Thomas Spencer was appointed coroner of Gibson county May 12, 1815. McJunkin's ferry was on lower White river.

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

PIQUA (On the Big Miami) 3d Sept. 1812

Har. Pa. 676-679

SIR:

Your favor of the 22d ultimo [see above] with the accompanying packets reached me yesterday by an express from Lexington.

I am honored and gratified by the appointement which the President has confered upon me and I must request you, Sir, to present to him my sincere acknowledgements for this renewed instance of his confidence in my zeal and patriotism. Under present circumstances however, I trust I shall be forgiven for postponing my decision as to the acceptance of the appointment until I receive your further instructions. My letter to you from Cincinnati will have explained my situation here, and the information of the fall of Detroit will no doubt, have caused other arrangements than those which were in contemplation when your letter was written. I have therefore thought it advisable not to vary the destination of that part of the Kentucky troops which you were informed was coming on in aid of the detachment which marched under Genl. [John] Payne, which appears from a letter received from Genl. [James] Winchester to be consigned to him.

I arrived here on the 1st inst. I found the whole country in dreadful alarm on account of the fall of Detroit and Chicago and the supposed investiture of Fort Wayne by the Indians. Seven hundred mounted volunteers had been assembled for the purpose of relieving it and had advanced as far as the St. Mary's twenty five miles from this, but they have after several ineffectual attempts by the commissioners [R. J. Meigs, Thomas Worthington, Jeremiah Morrow] to get them in advance, at length declined it until they could be reinforced. As soon as this was ascertained I dispatched an express for [Col. John] Allen's[1] select rifle regiment (one of Payne's brigade) and it has this moment arrived. I have given Col. Allen (one of the most distinguished citizens of Kentucky) orders to take the command of the Volunteers and [William] Garrard's

1. John Allen was born in Rockbridge Co., Va., Dec. 30, 1772. Came with his parents to Ky. and settled near Danville, 1780. Educated at Bardstown and in 1812 was practicing law at Shelbyville. He was one of the leading men of Ky. when he was killed at the Raisin.

Collins, *Kentucky, 168*

troop of Dragoons, and endeavour to force his way to Ft. Wayne. His force will amount to fifteen hundred men, and I hope will be fully equal to the dispersion of the Indians. It is however impossible to ascertain their force. Every attempt which has been made to reach Fort Wayne by the Commissioners for some days past has been ineffectual even with the assistance of the friendly Indians at this place. I should have increased Allen's force with another regiment at least, but for the want of fixed ammunition. Upon my arrival at Cincinnati I found but 12,000 cartriges and the troops had been put in motion without any means being adopted to procure a supply other than that of the arsenal which yielded from 1000 to 1500 per diem only. On Sunday last, however, the citizens of Cincinnati offered me their service to make cartridges and I left them progressing rapidly. On Monday evening last I am informed 12,000 set out as I had directed in a light waggon. They have however not yet arrived. When they do arrive another detachment will be sent after Col. Allen and the remaining part of Payne's brigade will follow on the same route as far as the St. Mary's I have ordered Allen to reconnoitre to a considerable distance in his front with mounted men and should he discover that the enemy are superior in number to his troops to fortify a camp and send back to apprise Genl. Payne or Winchester (who will be here tomorrow) of his situation. Upon a reference to the Commissioners to ascertain the disposition of the Indians towards us I am informed that all but these who are here must be considered hostile excepting the Miamis who are still wavering. I have therefore determined to commence offensive operations against them immediately and to make a sweeping blow at them beginning with the prophet at Tippecanoe and extending it up that river to the villages of the Potawatimies upon it and the head waters of the Illinois. The lateness of the season makes it necessary that it should be done by mounted men, unincumbered with any other baggage than what they carry upon their horses. I calculate upon a sufficiency of men being obtained of that description who will serve thirty days with no other reliance for pay than the bounty of the Government. I am unable, at this moment to give you the particulars of my plan for this expedition and the arrangements for the other part of the frontiers. My rendezvous is fixed at Dayton on the 15th instant and my route such an one as gives me great

hopes of effecting a complete surprise which could not be expected either down the Wabash from Fort Wayne or up it from Vincennes. With regard to my own situation, Sir, I assure you the rank of Brigadier is highly gratifying to me, but as the object for which Genl. Winchester was ordered to take the command of this detachment is now unattainable and as my judgment points out the propriety of commencing my operations from this quarter I wish to know how far I am to be subordinate to him in the main design of regaining our lost territory and retaking Malden. There is in my opinion a necessity of having one head in the western country to direct all the military movements. It might perhaps be presumption in me to compare my military information with that of Genl. Winchester and his extreme amiableness of character will insure him respect and esteem where he is known. But that happens not to be the case either in this state or Kentucky. The backwoodsmen are a singular people. They are susceptible of the most heroic achievements but they must be taken in their own way. From their affection and attachment everything may be expected but I will venture to say they never did nor never will perform anything brilliant under a stranger. I will venture to add another thing also. No general can act in this country without a personal knowledge of the country. Beyond the survey there is no map that can at all be relied upon. I acknowledge that I have no other claim to the command beyond that of other brigadiers but what may be supposed to arise from personal influence in the states which are to supply the troops, and knowledge of the country in which I have risen from the youngest ensign in my regt. to the command of an army.

I wait for your further orders, those which the state of things so different from what was supposed when your last letter was written requires.

It is unnecessary to state to you Sir, that with General Hull's army were captured all the heavy artillery and almost all the ordnance stores in the western country and that the arsenal at Newport is entirely deficient in many essential equipments.

I am with great respect Sir your Humble Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble. WM. EUSTIS Esqr. *Secretary of War*

SHELBY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

FRANKFORT KY. September 5th, 1812

McAfee, *The Late War, 112-117*

SIR—

In a government possessing the same extent of territory as that of the United States, with her inhabitants scattered and detached, and organized as it is, that energy cannot be exercised as in governments more compact.

Impressed with the truth of the preceding fact, and being called by my fellow citizens to fill the executive department of the government of this state, and having entered on the duties of the important station, I feel it a duty incumbent on me, to state to you, sir, my ideas on the subject of war measures northwest of the Ohio river.

When the northwestern army, commanded by general Hull, marched, all western America were flattered with the hope of success; too soon have we experienced a reverse, and that hope which beamed in every countenance a few days since, is now followed by astonishment, by mortification and anxiety, arising from a rapid succession of misfortunes, unknown in the annals of our historical events. The surrender of the fort of Michilimacanac and its garrison—Detroit and the army commanded by general Hull—the evacuation of Chicago, and the murder of the garrison, on the way from thence to fort Wayne by the Indians, are distressing facts.

The Indians, thus elated with success, encouraged and supported by the British from Canada, will now endeavour to extend their savage and barbarous devastations, along the extensive frontier of the state of Ohio, and the several territories, unless checked by the detachment of militia lately ordered from this state by my predecessor, and the regular troops who have marched under colonel [Samuel] Wells. It is believed from information received from various sources, that the Indians are collecting in force, at several points from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi river, with intent to make vigorous attacks on both the Indiana and Illinois territories; and should they be successful in a direction toward Vincennes, we shall, I fear, for a time have the Ohio river for a barrier, from the mouth of Kentucky to the junction of Ohio and the Mississippi.

To regain possession of the posts on the waters of the Lakes

will require time; but in the mean while, to stop the invasion of the enemy is all important to the welfare of our common country. It is expected that the troops which have marched, and are now marching from this state, the state of Ohio and Indiana territory, will be so arranged by governor Harrison, in whom they have great confidence, as to protect the great extent of frontier, and to act offensively likewise, if properly supplied with provisions and other necessaries.

It is not to be expected from the success our Indian enemy have met with, and the aid they will receive from the British, that they will be subdued this campaign; they are elated and will act with more vigor, and be more determined than usual. To subdue them is the important question. The time of the present detachment of militia now in service, will expire next February; to keep the enemy in check, it is conjectured their places will be supplied by troops of a similar description, ready to take the field next spring at as early a period as the nature of the country in which they will have to act, and other circumstances will justify the measure.

To march an army at a critical moment to act offensively, is an object ever to be desired, and on such movements the success of the campaign often depends. So remote is the scene of war in western America from the seat of the general government, and so various are the measures to be pursued, which are to guide an army to honor and success, against a subtle wary enemy; it appears to me impossible for the President to adopt with certainty, a line of operations to be observed by any officer, appointed to command in this section of the United States: however skilful the commander, and however judicious the arrangements may be at the moment when made, circumstances often occur which render a change necessary. On an emergency of this kind, to be compelled to have recourse to the war department, forward a statement of facts, and receive an answer, will not only greatly retard the movements of an army, but may wholly defeat the desired object.

From the same source other causes may arise, which will often delay the marching of an army, perplex both officers and soldiers, have a tendency to disgust men with the service, and in a long tedious war render it difficult for government to call forth those resources, which the exigency of the case may require.

The cases here alluded to, will arise from occurrences which it will be impossible for you to correct in due time; and which have come within my own observation in times past. Inattention, or any other misconduct, in quarter masters, contractors, commissaries and paymasters, or either of them, in the western country, so distant from you, may produced irremediable misfortune.

The circumstances which lead me to these reflections, arise from the delay which took place in marching the first detachment of the militia from this state, under general [John] Payne. Notwithstanding the emergency of the case required the utmost promptitude, being intended to succour general Hull; yet every thing necessary for their equipment, except arms and ammunition, was purchased and prepared after marching orders were issued; and the dispatch at last is greatly to be attributed to the exertion of individuals; nay, even the patriotic spirit of the ladies in making markees and tents. Although it would have been impossible for this army, under any arrangements to have reached Detroit in time to have relieved general Hull—yet, if it had not been detained at Georgetown and Newport, waiting for the necessary supplies at both places, possibly by forced marches the garrison at Chicago might have been saved.

I am not disposed to find fault with any arrangement which has been made, nor with any officer of any department of the government; yet, when important facts occur they ought to be made known, and the evil in future prevented. When the orders issued for calling into actual service, three regiments of this state's quota of the 100,000 militia, they were promised two months pay at the place of rendezvous. This I am informed was complied with. In two or three days after these regiments marched from Georgetown, a requisition was made for the residue of this state's quota: Three regiments of infantry and about 300 cavalry have marched to join general Payne; and three other regiments have crossed the Ohio below into the Indiana and Illinois Territories. These troops are certainly entitled to every compensation and equipment, which those first ordered into service received;—yet, I am induced to believe, they have not received the two months pay in advance, nor scarcely any other article of equipment to make them comfortable, and protect them from the inclemency of the weather, nor hospital stores. Such is the fact as respected

two regiments, and the cavalry, that passed this place. Men who engage for so long a tour as six months, are compelled to expend money for necessary articles of clothing, and the cavalry in considerable addition to that of the infantry. Many thousand dollars of debts have been contracted, under a confidence that two months pay in advance would be made to the whole of the militia, when called into actual service. Both debtors and creditors have been disappointed, except as to the three first regiments; which has occasioned murmurings and discontent—a circumstance to be regretted, not only as it respects the soldiers and their creditors, but as to the effect it may have on a future call of the militia.

To aid the great objects of the government in arranging and carrying on the necessary war measures, is the duty of every American citizen; but more especially is it the duty of those characters who are selected in the several states, to carry into effect the executive departments thereof. Since coming to my present office, I have seriously reflected on the present situation of our northwestern frontiers, and am induced to believe, that unless some change of measures is adopted, the objects of the President as contemplated at present, will be defeated, however wisely planned, much blood be spilt unnecessarily, immense sums of money improperly spent and, what I most apprehend and dread, a dissatisfaction among our citizens to the great cause, from some of the reasons heretofore assigned.

To remedy the mischiefs apprehended, I will take the liberty of suggesting to the President, the propriety of appointing a board of respectable characters, resident in the western country, responsible to him, in any way which it shall be his pleasure to direct, with power to call into service, under the laws of Congress, the militia which may be required, from time to time, from the states of Kentucky, Ohio, and the territories of Indiana and Illinois, to direct their operations either of offence or defence, to require from the war department all the munitions of war necessary for the supply of the troops, and all necessary equipments, to have the controul over the subordinate agents of the war department, within the district assigned and to make it the duty of the board to report to the departments of war, from time to time, the measures by them adopted.

A board thus organized would not fail of success in all the war measures in this section of the United States: characters properly selected to such an office, would feel a prompt desire to promote our common cause; from their knowledge of the country, they would be able to direct the necessary operations against the enemy, and whenever necessary, being in the vicinity of the army, give their advice to the officer commanding, and order out detachments to his aid, or divert the enemy so as certainly to insure success in the main enterprize, and secure our frontiers from savage cruely and devastation.

If such a board was now organized, and had the controul of the present armament, I would pledge myself the Indians would have to lament this campaign, and their temerity in joining the British and deserting the friendship of the United States. This is not a singular or novel idea—it is one formerly entertained and practised by general Washington, when President of the United States, and still adhered to by all men of experience in this country.

While I am writing this letter, I have received a dispatch from governor Harrison, dated at Piqua, of the second instant, in which he informs me that General Winchester is ordered on to take the command of the detachment sent from this state for the relief of general Hull. This arrangement at once divides the army under governor Harrison, and renders either part unequal to any object of importance, and ruins the fairest prospects of the expedition. It shews, however, in the strongest point of view, the utility of the plan that I propose, of forming a board of war measures in the western country, who would have a clear knowledge of the whole ground before them, and could project plans against the enemy, which might with certainty be carried into complete effect. Notwithstanding our late ill fortune on the lakes, I made great calculations upon the army under governor Harrison. Had they proceeded rapidly on, it is more than probable he could, with the force he had, have retaken Detroit with very little loss. In his army, were many of the most influential and respectable citizens of this state, from whom every thing was to be expected, which possibly could be achieved by any set of men on earth. And I believe had his march not been interrupted, in a very short time, we should have seen the flag of the United States, again waving on the bank of lake Erie.

Before I had conclued this letter, information was received that a number of families had been killed by the Indians, on the waters of White river, twelve or fifteen miles from the Ohio, in the Indiana territory; and that the inhabitants thereof, are crossing to this state by hundreds. [Pigeon Roost massacre] Should the Indians attack the territories of Indiana and Illinois, in that force which the present situation of our affairs, as relates to the war against Canada, seems almost to invite them to, there is no power here to order men out of this state to their assistance, nor is there the smallest provision made of arms or ammunition for an expedition should it be expedient to carry one into the Indian towns, to draw them from our frontiers into their own country.

I have written you a long letter; the happiness and welfare of my country have prompted me to it, and will, I trust, be a sufficient apology. [See Sept. 17 below]

I have the honor to be,

Sir, your most obedient servant

ISAAC SHELBY

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

HEADQUARTERS, PIQUA
September 5, 1812, 4 o'clock, A. M.

Har. Pa. 681

MOUNTED VOLUNTEERS!

I requested you, in my late address [Sept. 2 above] to rendezvous at Dayton on the 15th instant. I have now a more pressing call for your services! The British and Indians have invaded our country and are now besieging (perhaps have taken) Fort Wayne. Every friend to his country, who is able to do so, will join me as soon as possible, well mounted, with a good rifle and twenty or thirty days provision. Ammunition will be furnished at Cincinnati and at Dayton—and the Volunteers will draw provisions (to save their salted meat) at all the public deposites: the Quartermasters and Commissaries will see that this order is executed.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

PROCLAMATION

Har. Pa. 682

Whereas the United States are now at War with Great Britain whose forces are aided by savages of the most

ferocious nature and the frontiers of the state of Ohio are exposed to their cruelties and depredations as well as to the machinations of Traitors and Spies—creating discontent among our citizens and giving to our enemies information of our situation, forces and movements.

In order therefore (as far as lays in our power) to prevent such Cruelties, machinations, treachery and spying—I issue this proclamation, EXHORTING all the citizens and inhabitants of the state of Ohio to the strict observance of all their duties as such; requiring all military officers according to their rank to be strict, in their attention to the Discipline, Arms and Order of all those under their command, and to hold themselves in constant readiness for active service.

Also requiring all magistrates, conservators of the peace, and all civil officers and others, to be vigilant in the apprehension examination, and commitment of all such traitors or spies, in order that they may be dealt with according to law.

R. J. MEIGS *Governor of Ohio*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

PIQUA 5th Sept. 1812

Har. Pa. 683, 684

SIR:

I have the honor to inform you that I received information last night that a British [illegible] on the 18th ultimo for the purpose of attacking Fort Wayne and if successful Fort Harrison and Vincennes. I had yesterday dispatched a detachment of 900 choice men to join the mounted men of this state which are in advance and proceed to relieve Fort Wayne from the attack of the neighbouring Indians. I am now engaged in preparing cartridges and boring touch holes of the muskets all of which are too small and to some guns there are none. I shall set out early by tomorrow and by forced marches overtake the detachment. I had intended to have given up this command to General Winchester and have written to him to that effect. The situation of Fort Wayne however admits of no alternative. I have invited him to join me or to bring up the troops in the rear. From the information received since I wrote you there is little doubt but all the Indians (Miamis included) will participate in the attack of Fort Wayne. Having succeeded in relieving it, I shall be governed by circum-

stances. I have conveyed the above Intelligence by express to Vincennes and requested the Governor of Kentucky to send mounted volunteers there to reinforce the two Regiments now there. I have also requested a Reinforcement to be sent to Kaskaskias.

I have the Honor to be with much Respect your obt. Svt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble. WILLIAM EUSTIS Esqr. *Secty. of War*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

HEAD QUARTERS Sept. 6th 1812 (At Piqua)

Har. Pa. 685

SIR:

I have this day drawn upon you in favor of Mr. John H. Piatt[1] purchasing commissary appointed by Genl. Hull five bills of one thousand dollars each for which I have taken duplicate receipt for the purpose of completing the purchase of supplies and transporting them to the army. One of the duplicate receipts enclosed.

I am respectfully, WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble. WILLIAM EUSTIS Esqr. *Secy. of War*

H. QRTS. PIQUA 6th Sept. 1812

Har. Pa. 686

Recd. from Genl. Willm. H. Harrison five drafts of one thousand dollars each bearing date herewith on the Secy. of War for the purchase of supplies for the N. Western Army.

JOHN H. PIATT *Purchasing Commissary*

HD. QRTS. PIQUA Sept. 7th 1812

Har. Pa. 687

Received from Genl. Wm. H. Harrison a draft in my favor for one thousand dollars for the purpose of procuring equipment &c. for the public service.

JESSE HUNT [See next letter]

1. John H. Piatt was a descendant of a Huguenot family which came to America about 1740. Four of them served in the Revolution from N. J. Capt. William Piatt was killed at St. Clair's Defeat. Two other sons of the emigrant came with Symmes to North Bend. John H. Piatt was a younger brother. He was one of the wealthiest men of Cincinnati at the time and became a contractor for the army. He lost his entire fortune and died a pauper. His long struggle with the government to recover his losses are recorded in the *Annals of Congress.*

Howe, Hist. Col. of Ohio II, 95

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

PIQUA 7th Sept. 1812

Har. Pa. 688

SIR:

As it is supposed from the situation in which Genl. [James] Taylor[1] is placed that he can no longer act as agent and paymaster in the district of Cincinnati I beg leave to recommend for that appointment Mr. Jesse Hunt of Cincinnati who has been a resident and merchant of that place for twenty years. He possesses a very large property and has as extensive credit as any merchant of that flourishing town. I am persuaded that the appointment of Mr. Hunt will be very advantageous to the public interests. I have employed him to hire a number of horses for an expedition and have drawn in his favour for one thousand dollars to procure the equipment. [See above]

I am respectfully Sir, with great regard Yr. Humble. Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

P. S. Govr. Meiggs recommended Mr. Hunt to me (Before I thought of him) as the most proper person in the state for the appointment above mentioned.

The Honble The Secretary of War

SHELBY TO THOMAS BUFORD

FRANKFORT, KY., September 7, 1812

Reg. of Ky. State Hist. Soc., VIII, 15

SIR:

I am requested by Governor Harrison to direct you to forward supplies of provisions of every kind that compose the ration, to Vincennes for two regiments of the Kentucky Detached Militia; and all the supplies in the upper part of the State to Cincinnati, and provide also the means of transport from thence to the head of the settlements in the direction of Fort Wayne, of which you will govern yourself accordingly.

Y. Mo. Ob.,

ISAAC SHELBY

1. Gen. James Taylor was born in Carolina Co., Va., Apr. 19, 1769. Came to Ky. 1784. His home was at Newport. He was quartermaster general under Hull and surrendered at Detroit. When asked to help make out the capitulation papers he refused. He had not been paroled when this letter was written. He was one of the wealthiest men in the west.

Collins, *Kentucky, 227*

SHELBY TO HOPKINS

FRANKFORT, KY., Sept. 8th, 1812

Reg. Ky. Sta. Hist. Soc. VIII, 15

DEAR GENERAL:

It appears from the enclosed copy of a letter which I have just received from Gen. Harrison, that great danger is apprehended from the attack of the British and Indians upon the weak and defenseless settlements of Indiana and Illinois Territories, and particularly as to the safety of Fort Harrison and Vincennes. [See Sept. 5 above]

I have in consequence of this information, and the requisiiton of Governor Harrison, thought it proper to invite as many of my fellow citizens to volunteer their services for a short period, as will be sufficient to afford relief to that frontier, and if deemed necessary to follow the enemy to their country and lay it waste.

To this end I have addressed my countrymen in a hand bill which is circulated for that purpose through all the lower and southern counties of this State, sundry copies of which are forwarded to you to disperse.

From what passed between you and myself when I had the honour to see you here, I have thought proper to name you as the officer to command the expedition, which I hope, my good sir, will be agreeable to you. The situation of our country at this momentous crisis calls for the service of her most experienced military characters, and although this is not just such a command as I should be pleased to see you at the head of it, it is perhaps the only one in which you can serve your country this present season; but should you decline this command, be so good as to appraise General Winlock of your determination by the earliest opportunity.

Should you on reflection think it most advisable to direct the rendezvous of the volunteers of the lower counties to assemble at any other place than that of Louisville and so form a union at Vincennes, you can use your own discretion, as I am not so well acquainted with the geography of the lower counties to advise you.

It appears to be the wish of General Harrison that Col. [Philip] Barbour's[1] regiment should be followed by some

1. Philip Barbour was born in Culpepper Co., Va., June 27, 1770. While young he located near Louisville, brother-in-law of President Taylor. After the death of his first wife married the daughter of Gen. Hopkins and moved to Henderson. He died

mounted men to Kaskaskia; you can direct as many that way from the lower counties as you may deem expedient for the security of that territory.

I enclose you a hand bill just circulated through the upper counties by Governor Harrison to collect volunteers to join him; he has some object in view which I am not yet apprised of. You will have heard before this reaches you that he has been appointed a brigadier in the U. S. Army, and that Gen. Winchester is appointed to command the detachment ordered on from this State to reinforce General Hull, to wit: Payne's and Well's corps. He has left Lexington on his way to join the army. I don't know what effect this arrangement may have on the success of the expedition.

I am, Etc.

ISAAC SHELBY

GOV. SHELBY TO CITIZENS OF KENTUCKY

FRANKFORT, September, 8, 1812

McAfee, *History, 156*

FELLOW-CITIZENS OF KENTUCKY!

I have received information from his excellency governor Harrison commanding the army northwest of the Ohio, dated the 5th inst. at Piqua, that the British and Indians had besieged fort Wayne and perhaps had taken it; [see Sept. 5 above] that it was the object of the enemy to push on to fort Harrison and Vincennes and he has required of me to leave nothing undone to relieve those places. In addition to this, information is also received, that the Indians have murdered twenty-one persons not more than twenty miles north of the Ohio [Pigeon Roost] and that a very extensive combination of savages, aided by the British from Canada, are momently expected on the frontier of Indiana and Illinois territories.

With this information before us and the requisition of governor Harrison, that a number of mounted volunteers be requested to march to the aid of our suffering fellow-citizens, it is hoped that it will rouse the spirit and indignation of the freemen of Kentucky and induce a sufficient number of them

while on a visit to Corydon, Ind., Oct. 6, 1818, and is buried there. His son Philip N. Barbour was killed in the battle of Monterey, Sept. 19, 1846.

Young, *Battle of the Thames, 149*

to give their services to their country for a short period on this interesting occasion.

It is proposed to accept the service of such a number of mounted volunteers as may be adequate to the defence of the said territories and if necessary, follow the enemy, and carry offensive war into their country, and lay waste their towns.

The volunteers will rendezvous at Louisville on the 18th day of this month, with at least thirty days provisions. The whole will be commanded by major general Samuel Hopkins, an officer of great merit and experience. Should any company of volunteers not be able to rendezvous on the day appointed, they can follow on and join the army on their march.

Kentuckians! ever pre-eminent for their patriotism, bravery and good conduct will, I am persuaded, on this occasion give to the world a new evidence of their love for their country, and a determination, at every hazard, to rescue their fellow-men from the murders and devastations of a cruel and barbarous enemy.

ISAAC SHELBY

WINLOCK TO GIBSON

BEAR GRASS CAMP near LOUISVILLE
September 8th 1812
Mss. Ind. State Library

SIR,

I have just received yours of the 5th Inst. by express—I was ordered to rendezvous at this place on the 1st Inst. with two regiments of the Kentucky Militia, but Governor Harrison has taken one of those regiments on towards Fort Wayne—

I arrived here on the 1st with Col. Miller's regiment and expected to have found the necessary equipage for the men, and have marched on immediately—but there was only 300 muskets—200 pounds of powder—20 Camp Kettles and 300 flints for upwards of *Six Hundred* men, which there is in this regiment, (including officers)—I have been busily engaged since my arrival, in procuring what articles were deficient—but having no public money at my command, I found great difficulty in procuring them—We have had 300 Cartridge boxes & Cartridges for them to make.

I think we can be ready to march on the 10th Inst.—You may be assured I will be at Vincennes as soon as possible—A great many of the men say they will not cross the river unless they receive the same pay in advance that the other troops received who march'd from this State—but I am in hopes very few will be unwilling when we are ready to march

Since writing the above I have recd. a copy of a letter from Govr. Harrison to Govr. Shelby a copy of which I herewith enclose you—

I have the honor to be

your Obt. Servt.

I. WINLOCK *B. G. Comd.t.*

The Honble JOHN GIBSON

SHELBY TO GEN. HOPKINS

FRANKFORT, KY., Sept. 9th, 1812

Reg. Ky. Sta. Hist. Soc. VIII, 16

DEAR SIR:

I have received a letter from Governor Harrison of the 4th inst. stating that Major George R. Floyd was anxious to raise a battallion of mounted riflemen to march immediately to Vincennes, and the Governor requests that I would confer on the Major the necessary power to carry his wishes into effect. I do not consider myself as invested with power to issue commissions, only in the line of the militia of this State.

But I very highly approve of Major Floyd's pretentions to command a battalion of the mounted volunteers that are expected to serve under you on the contemplated enterprise for the defense of the Indiana territory, etc, etc. And when the volunteers shall assemble at the place of rendezvous, you have my most cordial consent to appoint Major Floyd to command in any station under you that you deem proper. The Major is an officer whose military character and prowess in the field entitles him to great confidence and I feel no doubt but any of the volunteers will be glad to be attached to his command.

I am, etc.,

ISAAC SHELBY

Major General SAMUEL HOPKINS

General Orders

H. Q. Second Crossing of St. Marys, Sept. 10, 1812

McAfee, *History, 124*

The signal for a general charge will be beating the roll. At night the officers and men will lie upon their arms and their clothes. Two or more guns firing in succession will constitute an alarm, at which the whole army will parade in the order of the encampment, which will be a hollow square, unless otherwise directed. When a sentinel discharges his gun in the night, the officer of the guard to whom he belongs, will immediately ascertain the cause; and should he have sufficient reason to believe on examination, that an enemy is near, he will cause two guns to be fired in quick succession. Should the firing proceed from an insufficient cause to give an alarm, the officer will immediately call out "all is well", which will be repeated through the army. The same shall take place upon an accidental firing in the day time. The order of battle, for a rear attack in the day time, while the army are on the march, will be so far attended to, with respect to the rear line, that the rear battalions of colonels Lewis and Allen's regiments only are to turn upon their centres, while the heads of the front battalions are to close up to the front lines, then facing from the centre, march out until they respectively gain the flanks of the front line. Should the attack be in front, the senior officer nearest the flank battalion, will judge of the propriety of bringing up that battalion to form on the flank of the front line. The 2nd battalions of colonels Lewis and Allen's regiments, will in all cases close up, as the leading battalions shall advance and make room for them. Captain Garrard's troop forming guard will also close up and act as circumstances may require.

Wm. H. Harrison *Maj Gen Commanding*

Taylor to Harrison

Fort Harrison, September 10. 1812

Historical Register II, 129, Ap.

Dear sir,

On Thursday evening the 3d instant, after retreat beating, four guns were heard to fire in the direction where two young men (citizens who resided here) were making hay, about 400

yards distance from the fort. I was immediately impressed with an idea that they were killed by the Indians, as the Miamies or Weas had that day informed me that the prophet's party would soon be here for the purpose of commencing hostilities; and that they had been directed to leave this place, which they were about to do. I did not think it prudent to send out at that late hour of the night to see what had become of them; and their not coming in convinced me that I was right in my conjecture. I waited until 8 o'clock next morning, when I sent out a corporal with a small party to find them, if it could be done without running too much risk of being drawn into an ambuscade. He soon sent back to inform me, that he had found them both killed, and wished to know my further orders; I sent the cart and oxen, and had them brought in and buried; they had been each shot with two balls, scalped, and cut in the most shocking manner. Late in the evening of the 4th instant, old Joseph Lenar, [Renard] and between 30 or 40 Indians arrived from the prophet's town, with a white flag; among whom were about 10 women, and the men were composed of chiefs of the different tribes that compose the prophet's party. A Shawanoe man, that spoke good English, informed me that old Lenar intended to speak to me next morning, and try to get something to eat. At retreat beating I examined the men's arms, and found them all in good order, and completed their cartridges to 16 rounds per man. As I had not been able to mount a guard of more than six privates and two non-commissioned officers, for some time past, and sometimes part of them every other day, from the unhealthiness of the company, I had not conceived my force adequate to the defence of this post should it be vigorously attacked, for some time past. As I had just recovered from a very severe attack of the fever, I was not able to be up much through the night. After tatoo I cautioned the guard to be vigilant, and ordered one of the non-commissioned officers, as the sentinels could not see every part of the garrison, to walk round the inside during the whole night, to prevent the Indians taking any advantage of us, provided they had any intention of attacking us. About 11 o'clock I was awakened by the firing of one of the sentinels; I sprung up, ran out, and ordered the men to their posts; when my orderly serjeant (who had command of the upper block-house) called out that the Indians had fired the lower block-house which contained

the property of the contractor, which was deposited in the lower part, the upper having been assigned to a corporal and 10 privates, as an alarm post. The guns had begun to fire pretty smartly from both sides. I directed the buckets to be got ready, and water brought from the well, and the fire extinguished immediately, as it was hardly perceivable at that time; but from debility or some other cause, the men were very slow in executing my orders. The word fire appeared to throw the whole of them in confusion; and by the time they had got the water and broken open the door, the fire had unfortunately communicated to a quantity of whiskey (the stock having licked several holes through the lower part of the building, after the salt that was stored there, through which they had introduced the fire without being discovered, as the night was very dark), and in spite of every exertion we could make use of, in less than a moment it ascended to the roof, and baffled every effort we could make to extinguish it. As that block-house adjoined the barracks that make part of the fortifications most of the men immediately gave themselves up for lost, and I had the greatest difficulty in getting any of my orders executed and, sir, what from the raging of the fire, the yelling and howling of several hundred Indians, the cries of nine women and children (a part of soldiers' and a part of citizens' wives, who had taken shelter in the fort) and the desponding of so many of the men, which was worse than all, I can assure you that my feelings were very unpleasant and indeed there were not more than 10 or 15 men able to do a great deal, the others being either sick or convalescent and to add to our other misfortunes, two of the stoutest men in the fort, and that I had every confidence in, jumped the picket and left us. But my presence of mind did not for a moment forsake me. I saw, by throwing off part of the roof that joined the block-house that was on fire, and keeping the end perfectly wet, the whole row of buildings might be saved, and leave only an entrance of 18 or 20 feet for the Indians to enter after the house was consumed; and that a temporary breastwork might be erected to prevent their even entering there I convinced the men that this could be accomplished, and it appeared to inspire them with new life, and never did men act with more firmness and desperation. Those that were able (while the others kept up a constant fire from the other block-house and the two bastions) mounted the roofs of the houses,

with Dr. Clark at their head (who acted with the greatest firmness and presence of mind the whole time the attack lasted, which was seven hours) under a shower of bullets, and in less than a moment threw off as much of the roof as was necessary. This was done only with the loss of one man killed, and two wounded, and I am in hopes neither of them dangerously. The man that was killed was a little deranged, and did not get off the house as soon as directed, or he would not have been hurt and although the barracks were several times in a blaze, and an immense quantity of fire against them the men used such exertions that they kept it under, and before day raised a temporary breastwork as high as a man's head, although the Indians continued to pour in a heavy fire of ball and an innumerable quantity of arrows during the whole time the attack lasted, in every part of the parade. I had but one man killed, nor any other wounded inside the fort, and he lost his life by being too anxious. He got into one of the gallies in the bastions, and fired over the pickets, and called out to his comrades that he had killed an Indian, and neglecting to stoop down, in an instant was shot dead. One of the men that jumped the pickets, returned an hour before day, and running up toward the gate begged for God's sake for it to be opened. I suspected it to be a stratagem of the Indians to get in, as I did not recollect the voice. I directed the men in the bastion, where I happened to be, to shoot him let him be who he would, and one of them fired at him, but fortunately he ran up to the other bastion, where they knew his voice, and Dr. Clark directed him to lie down close to the pickets behind an empty barrel that happened to be there, and at day-light I let him in. His arm was broke in a most shocking manner; which he said was done by the Indians which I suppose was the cause of his returning. I think it probable he will not recover. The other they caught about 120 yards from the garrison, and cut him all to pieces. After keeping up a constant fire until about 6 o'clock the next morning, which we began to return with some effect after day-light, they removed out of the reach of our guns. A party of them drove up the horses that belonged to the citizens here, and as they could not catch them very readily, shot the whole of them in our sight, as well as a number of hogs. They drove off the whole of the cattle, which amounted to 65 head, as well as the public oxen. I had the vacancy filled up before night (which was

made by the burning of the block-house) with a strong row of pickets, which I got by pulling down the guard house. We lost the whole of our provisions, but must make out to live upon green corn until we can get a supply, which I am in hopes will not be long. I believe the whole of the Miamies or Weas were among the prophet's party, as one chief gave his orders in that language, which resembled Stone Eater's voice; and I believe Negro Legs was there likewise. A Frenchman here understands their different languages, and several of the Miamies or Weas, that have been frequently here, were recognized by the Frenchman and soldiers, next morning. The Indians suffered smartly, but were so numerous as to take off all that were shot. They continued with us until the next morning, but made no further attempt on the fort, nor have we seen any thing more of them since. I have delayed informing you of my situation, as I did not like to weaken the garrison, and I looked for some person from Vincennes, and none of my men were acquainted with the woods, and therefore would either have to take the road or river, which I was fearful was guarded by small parties of Indians that would not dare attack a company of rangers that was on a scout; but being disappointed, I have at length determined to send a couple of men by water, and am in hopes they will arrive safe. I think it would be best to send the provisions under a pretty strong escort, as the Indians may attempt to prevent their coming. If you carry on an expedition against the prophet this fall, you ought to be well provided with everything as you may calculate on having every inch of ground disputed between this and there that they can defend with advantage.

Wishing &c. &c.

Z. TAYLOR

His Excellency GOVERNOR HARRISON

SECRETARY OF WAR TO JOHNSON

WAR DEPARTMENT Sept. 10, 1812

Har. Pa. 28

SIR:

You will comply with the Requisitions of Brig. General William H. Harrison.

D. H. JOHNSON,
Asst. D. Q. M.
Pittsburg Pa.

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT Sept. 10th, 1812

Har. Pa. 28

SIR:

Your letters of August 28th & 29th [see above] have been received. You will perceive by my communications of August 22d and 28th [see above] that you have anticipated the wishes of the President. In addition to the Instructions to Mr. [Thomas] Buford Deputy Commissary and to the assistant Deputy Quarter Master at Newport to furnish whatever you might require, the Asst. D. Q. Master at Pittsburg has been directed to forward with all possible expedition, arms, ammunition equipment, tents and other camp equipage. Arrangements have been made for increasing those supplies and Major [Amos] Stoddard of the Artillery is now at Pittsburg, to give additional energy to those measures, to prepare artillery & other necessary munitions for that service, & correspond with the Commanding General relative to the same. You must be sensible that to make carriages & get up a Train of Artillery will require time. You will perceive by the Act to Establish the Quarter Master's Department &c. the Officers recognized in that Act are subject to the Orders of the Commanding General for all necessary supplies, and every possible facility will be rendered by placing money in the Bank of the Miami Exporting Company, and at such other Convenient Points as may be found practicable.

The President is expected to return to this place from Virginia in a few days when I shall have the honor to communicate to you his further instructions & determinations respecting the Command of the Forces of the Northwestern army, which in addition to the Regulars, Rangers, Volunteers & Militia of Kentucky & Ohio will immediately be reinforced with 1500 militia from Virginia & 1500 from Pennsylvania, in addition to several companies of mounted Volunteers from those states.

Brig. General WM. H. HARRISON
Chilicothe

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

HEAD QUARTERS 17 miles from FORT WAYNE
Sept. 11th 1812, 9 o'clock P. M.

Har. Pa. 689

SIR:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 30th ultimo which was brought me this moment by express. The necessary arrangements for the procuring of provision and ammunition added to the trouble of establishing an issuing commissary department in consequence of the failure of our contractor has prevented me from reaching Fort Wayne as soon by one day as expected. I shall however reach it tomorrow. I have every reason to believe that it will not be without a severe contest. No information has been received from the Fort since the 3rd Inst. and should the Indians have been assisted by the British detachment I fear it would not have been able to hold out. A small detachment which I sent to endeavour to penetrate to the fort has just returned without being able to accomplish their object altho they encountered and defeated a small party of the enemy. You need not fear Sir the issues of the action which I expect will take place tomorrow, my troops are in high spirits and will I am persuaded do honor to themselves and their country.

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir Yr. Humb. Svt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble WILLM. EUSTIS Esqr. *Secy. of War*

PHILIP BARBOUR TO GIBSON

HEAD QUARTERS. TOWN HENDERSON
Sept 11th. 1812

Mss. Ind. State Library

SIR

I have dispatched Major Wm. R McGary with 241 men to your relief and in obedience to your order to me, armed as well as the nature of the case wou'd admit of. Considering your situation I have thought expedient to procure arms and amunition by impresment, having as yet not been furnished with them by the Government. I am in dayly expectation of receiving them and so soon as I do I will march the Balance of

the Regiment under my Command to your releif Majr McGary will receive your Orders untill I arrive at Vincennes, The major is Brave firm and determined, and I doubt not will give you as good account of any Command you may be pleased to order him on

Accept Sir assurance of the high respect with which I have the honour to be

Your Obt Servt

PHILIP BARBOUR *Lt Col 6th Regt. K. M.*

SHELBY TO HOPKINS

FRANKFORT, KY., Sept. 12th, 1812

Reg. Ky. State Hist. Soc. VIII, 16

DEAR SIR:

I have received your favor by Mr. [Robert] Latham to whom I have given a positive order upon the quarter master at Newport for all the articles which Col. [Philip] Barbour's Regt. are deficient in, and directed the paymaster to contrive that they receive their two months' pay in advance before they march from their present encampment. I flatter myself that this requisition can be complied with, as I am informed Cols. [Philip] Barbour's and [William] Jennings' Regts. have received their advance pay at Newport. I flatter myself that Mr. Latham will receive great part of the articles I have ordered, it is said a fresh supply of some of them had reached Newport some days ago. Tents especially, I am told, are in abundance.

You will before this have received my dispatch by Mr. Quarles, I am taking every step in my power to induce the volunteers to turn out. I hope you will have a respectable command, and believe you will have much to do in the quarter to which you are destined. I have wrote to General Harrison fully on the subject and feel no doubt but he will sanction every step I have taken, indeed, I think his letter of the 5th, of which I sent you a copy, fully justifies all I have done. He writes me that the Government has invested him with extensive powers as to the defence of the frontiers of the two territories, and no step is yet taken but what is indispensable.

In my letter of the 8th by Mr. Quarles, I did not say any thing respecting your taking command of Col. [John] Miller's,

Wilcox's and [Philip] Barbour's Rgts., in the event of their forming a junction with the volunteers, as this would be a matter of course while you acted together, and as such I wish you to understand me. I have recommended to Governor Harrison to push hard for Detroit, and leave the Indians on Wabash and Illinois for you to settle with. I feel no doubt that you will have a force equal to the object. Whatever I hear from him shall be communicated by express to you. I said something to you about sending on some of the mounted volunteers to Kaskaskia. I wish you to govern your decisions on that point according to the emergencies which may present themselves to your mind.

I am, etc. etc.

ISAAC SHELBY

Major General SAMUEL HOPKINS

SHELBY TO THE QUARTERMASTER AT NEWPORT

FRANKFORT, KY., Sept. 12th, 1812

Reg. Ky. State Hist. Soc. VIII, 16

SIRS:

I have just now received information by express from Lieut. Col. Philip Barbour, commanding the Sixth Regt., of the Detached Kentucky Militia, that his regiment had been at the point of rendexvous since the first day of this month, ready to proceed to their destination as ordered by Governor Harrison, but that for the want of the necessary supplies, they were unable to proceed.

This will be handed to you by Mr. Robert Latham, an officer and adjutant of the said Regt., to whom you will please deliver the following supplies for that corps of militia, to-wit: 500 lbs. gunpowder, 600 lbs. lead, 100 tents, 1,000 flints, 100 knapsacks, 200 cartridge boxes, 100 muskets, 60 axes, and 60 camp kettles (one-half for Col. [John] Miller at Louisville), and furnish him with the means of transporting them to the troops at Henderson town. It is hoped that if in your power you will issue the above articles immediately, as the service of that Regt. is now required by the acting Governor at Vincennes, who informs that the Indians in great force have attacked Fort Harrison, and they are wanted for the relief of that place. It is also indispensably necessary that the two months' pay due to these men should be sent on and paid to

them before they march from their present encampment. It is therefore expected that you will attend to this point also.

I am Sir, etc.,

ISAAC SHELBY

To the Acting Q. MASTER, Newport, Kentucky

SHELBY TO PAYMASTER AT NEWPORT

FRANKFORT, KY., Sept. 12th, 1812

Reg. Ky. State Hist. Soc. VIII, 16

SIR:

I have written to the Q. Master at Newport to forward on sundry supplies for the use of Col. Miller's and Barbour's Regts. You will please to forward on the two months' pay in advance to those Regts. if in your power. The Quarter Master will furnish you with the means of conveyance. Miller's Reg. is about 690 and Barbour's 656 as detached. This is judged indispensable as it is believed they will be unable to go on without an advance.

I am, sir, etc.,

ISAAC SHELBY

The PAYMASTER, Kentucky Detached Militia, Newport

GIBSON TO HARGROVE

VINCENNES, INDIANA TERRITORY,
September 12, 1812

Cockrum, *Pioneer History of Indiana, 360*

Col. HARGROVE, *Commanding Rangers*;

The brave defense made by Captain [Zachary] Taylor at Ft. Harrison is one bright ray amid the gloom of incompetency which has been shown in so many places. [September 10, above]

Your force east of Blue river was not expected to do anything toward guarding the country for several miles this side of the frontier where the twenty-four foolish people were murdered. [Pigeon Roost] The militia of Clark county are supposed to be on duty in that direction and were not to blame. The venturesome people who are in all sections of the country cause their own destruction and keep the country in a great turmoil. The orders in regard to people moving beyond the line of protection from this date shall be obeyed and the

venturesome people who are continually wanting to go too near the front, shall go into forts in touch with our guards or be brought back inside of the line.

There is great need of vigilant watch being kept. The Indians will attempt in many ways to wreak vengeance on the white people.

JOHN GIBSON *Acting Governor*

TAYLOR TO HARRISON

FORT HARRISON, Sept. 13, 1812

Niles Register III, 91

DEAR SIR

I wrote you on the 10th instant, giving you an account of the attack on this place, as well as my situation, which account I attempted to send by water, but the two men whom I dispatched in a canoe after night, found the river so well guarded, that they were obliged to return. The Indians had built a fire on the bank of the river, a short distance below the garrison, which gave them an opportunity of seeing any craft that might attempt to pass, and were waiting with a canoe ready to intercept it. I expect the fort, as well as the road to Vincennes, is as well or better watched than the river. But my situation compels me to make one other attempt by land, and my orderly sergeant, with one other man sets out to night with strict orders to avoid the road in the day time, and depend entirely on the woods, although neither of them have ever been in Vincennes by land, nor do they know any thing of the country, but I am in hopes they will reach you in safety. I send them with great reluctance from their ignorance of the woods. I think it very probable there is a large party of Indians waylaying the road between this and Vincennes, likely about the Narrows, for the purpose of intercepting any party that may be coming to this place, as the cattle they got here will supply them plentifully with provisions for some time to come.

Please &c. &c.

Z. TAYLOR

His Excellency Gov. HARRISON

GOVERNOR SHELBY TO CLAY AND SOUTH

FRANKFORT, KY., Sept. 16th, 1812

Reg. Ky. State Hist. Soc. VIII, 18

SIR:

I have received your favor of the 14th inst. I am glad to learn that the citizens of Madison seem so hearty in the defence of their country, but I presume the spirit and meaning of my address to my countrymen is not entirely understood. It was not intended as a call upon the militia in the ordinary way, but it was an appeal on the present emergency to the spirit and patriotism of my fellow citizens to volunteer their services for a short period for the defence of the frontier of Indiana and Illinois territories, which seem to be invaded by the savages.

No man need offer his services on this occasion who cannot mount and arm himself equipped with everything necessary for his support at least thirty days, for there is not a single stand of public arms at my disposal, nor any kind of camp equipage, blankets, etc., which you inquire for, nor is there any means in my power to procure them.

I am, Etc.,

ISAAC SHELBY

N. B.—This is considered as an answer to Gen. G. Clay[1] and Saml. South.

SECRETARY OF WAR TO SHELBY

WAR DEPARTMENT, September 17, 1812

McAfee, *History of the Late War, 117*

SIR—

Your excellency's letter of the 5th inst. has been received and laid before the president. [See Sept 5 above] The intelligence and patriotism which have dicated the useful information which you have been pleased to communicate is duly appreciated.

The embarrassments attending the organization, direction, and supplies of any force, with the difficulty of determining the amount from the seat of government, have been sensibly

1. Green Clay was born in Powhatan Co., Va., Aug. 14, 1757. While a boy he came to Ky. where he became a surveyor. After the War of 1812 he returned to his farm in Madison Co., Ky., where he died Oct. 31, 1826.

Collins, *Kentucky, 243*

felt. To find an adequate remedy, has engaged much of the attention of the executive.

From a board of intelligent, influential, and patriotic citizens much useful information, and other essential advantages might be derived. Whether they could be clothed with the powers suggested, is a question requiring consideration. To meet existing emergencies after consulting the lawful authority vested in the president it has been determined to vest the command of all the forces on the western and northwestern frontier in an officer, whose military character and knowledge of the country, appear to be combined with the public confidence. General Harrison has accordingly been appointed to the chief command, with authority to employ officers, and to draw from the public stores, and every other practical source, all the means of effecting the object of his command.

In the great and unexpected demands created by the late disasters, it will necessarily happen that deficiencies in the supplies will be experienced. Every exertion, however, is making to provide for the troops, the munitions which they require.

I have the honor to enclose a copy of a requisition made on governor Scott Should requisitions be made beyond the quota assigned to the state of Kentucky, the president is assured of a prompt co-operation on the part of the executive, under the act of February, 1795.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully

Sir, Your obedient Servant.

His Excellency Gov. SHELBY WM EUSTIS

P. S. In addition to the supplies ordered from Pittsburgh, ten thousand pair of shoes, five thousand blankets, tents, camp equipage and quarter master's stores, are on their way from Philadelphia for the northwestern army. A part of them at least are on their way, and will be followed by the remainder without loss of time.

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT Sepr. 17th 1812

Har. Pa. 29

SIR:

The President is pleased to assign to you the command of the Northwestern Army, which in addition to the Regular

Troops & Rangers in that Quarter, will consist of the Volunteers & militia of Kentucky Ohio Three Thousand detached Militia from Virginia & Pennsylvania, and making your whole force of Ten Thousand men.

Having provided for the protection of the Western frontier, you will retake Detroit; and with a view to the Conquest of Upper Canada, you will penetrate that country as far as the force under your Command will in your judgment justify. Every exertion is making to give you a Train of Artillery from Pittsburg—to effect which you must be sensible requires time. Major [Amos] Stoddard the Senior Officer of Artillery at that place will advise you of his arrangements and progress & receive your instructions.

Captain [Charles] Gratiot[1] of the Engineers will report himself to you from Pittsburg He will receive your Orders & join you with the first pieces of Artillery which can be prepared or receive such Orders as you may direct.

Major [James V.] Ball[2] of the 2d Regiment of Dragoons will also report himself and join you immediately. Such Staff Officers as you may appoint conformably to Law, will be approved by the President. Copies of all the contracts for supplying provisions have been transmitted. Mr. [Ebenezer] Denny the Contractor at Pittsburg is instructed to furnish magazines of provisions at such points as you may direct. The Deputy Quarter Master at Pittsburg will continue to forward stores and munitions of every kind, and will meet your requisitions. [?] draw and sell bills on this department.

Genl. Wm. Henry
Harrison, *Commd.*
The N. W. Army U. S.

Harrison to Shelby

Head Quarters, Fort Wayne 18th Sept., 1812

Historical Register II, 133

I arrived here with the troops on Saturday last; the Indians had closely invested the fort for several days, and burnt the

1. Charles Grotiot of St. Louis joined the army July 14, 1804, and served continuously till Dec. 6, 1838, when he retired as a brevet Brig. Gen. He died May 18, 1855. For a history of the Grotiot family see Scharf, *History of St. Louis, index.*

2. James Vincent Ball of Va. served in the army from May 1, 1794, till 1802; and from 1812 till his death Feb. 24, 1818.

United States' factory, and many other valuable houses. But three of our people were killed: they (the Indians) raised the siege the day before we reached here, and retreated precipitately.

Not being able to move on towards Detroit immediately, on account of the want of proper supplies, I determined to employ the intermediate time in destroying the towns within two days march of this place. The whole force was accordingly divided and placed under the command of general [John] Payne and colonel [Samuel] Wells. The former was directed to destroy the Miami towns at the forks of the Wabash; and the latter directed to go against the potawatamie villages at Elk Hart.

I accompanied general Payne on the expedition; four of the Miami villages were burnt (three of them remarkably flourishing) and all their corn was cut up and piled, under the expectation that it would rot before the Indians could do anything to prevent it. I have this moment heard from colonel Wells: he has been equally successful, and has met with no enemy who dared to oppose them.

It is impossible to find language to convey my sense of the merits of the troops under my command from your state. Yes, my dear sir, I anticipated in this campaign a glorious triumph to our arms, and an equally glorious triumph to republicanism, since it will prove the falsity of the theory which proclaims the necessity of standing armies, or, in other words, that a man must become a slave before he can be made a warrior.

GIBSON TO HARGROVE

VINCENNES, INDIANA TERRITORY,
September 18, '12

Cockrum, *Pioneer History of Indiana, 359, 360*

COLONEL HARGROVE, *Commanding the Mounted Ranger Service:*

On last Thursday, the 3d inst., there were twenty-four people killed at a point north of Louisville, some thirty or forty miles. [Pigeon Roost] The Indians who committed this murder came from the north beyond White river. These foolhardy people had moved away from all others and made no attempt at preparing a place fore defense.

You will go over your territory and at each post ascertain if there are people who are out beyond the line that you are protecting. If you should find such to be the case, then order them to prepare a fort and see that they do it, where there are as many as three families. If you should find less than three families at any isolated point, have them and their effects moved to a place where they can be protected and where the men of these families can help protect others. See that this order is carried out in the earliest possible time.

JOHN GIBSON, *Acting Governor*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT Sept. 18th, 1812

Har. Pa. 30

SIR:

The President has this day appointed James Morrison[1] Esq. of Kentucky, Deputy Quarter Master General to the army under your command, which it is hoped will be agreeable to you.

Genl. W. HENRY HARRISON, *Com. the N. W. Army*

S. W. CULBERTSON TO MR. CHAMBERS, editor of the Zanesville *Messenger*,

1812

Dawson *Harrison, 289*

Mr. CHAMBERS,

I have just returned from Urbanna, where governor [Return J.] Meigs is at present with about 1000 soldiers. Brigadier-general Harrison is at Piqua with 2000 Kentucky soldiers, and 2000 more in his rear. Harrison's presence appears to inspire every person with courage, and makes even cowards brave. His present conduct evinces a determination to retrieve the injured reputation of our country. He has made a most animated speech to the friendly natives at Piqua, who are numerous and sueing for a continuation of peace. He has promised them protection, at the same time assuring

1. James Morrison was born in Cumberland Co., Penn., 1755. He was an Irishman, served six years under Daniel Morgan in the Rev. Located in Pittsburg where he remained till 1792 when he went to Lexington, Ky. Here he was a leading business man, land commissioner, revenue collector, president of Lexington Branch bank of U. S. contractor for army, and quartermaster general till his death Apr. 23, 1823.

Collins, *Kentucky, 277*

them in terrific language which struck terror to all hearts, that the name of an Indian foe should not long be known among us—that the American army will no longer be commanded by an old woman.

Governor Meig's late patriotic conduct and exertions appear to be rewarded only with ingratitude. He has ordered the 2d detachment of militia, which marched from this place under the command of colonel M'Connell, to be dismissed, having been called out contrary to his instructions and intentions, which must have been misunderstood.

S. W. CULBERTSON

HARRISON TO WINCHESTER

FORT WAYNE, 19th September, 1812

Dawson, *Harrison*, 295

SIR,

Having, by my general order of this day, relinquished the command of the army, consisting of the detachment of colonel [Samuel] Well's regiment under that officer, captain [William] Garrard's troop of dragoons, and the three regiments of Kentucky infantry under general [John] Payne; I have now the honor to inform you, that any other part of the infantry under my command will be made subject to your orders, that you may think necessary to carry the directions you have received from the government into effect. The supplies which have been reported to me, or ordered by me, are as follows: 400,000 rations of beef, and 150,000 of flour, purchased by Mr. John H. Piatt under the authority of general Hull. A part of this flour, and about 50,000 lbs, of beef has been brought on and consumed by the army. The balance of the flour is either on the way hither or to St. Mary's where it was directed to be deposited. I also directed Mr. Piatt to purchase and send on to St. Mary's, whiskey, and other component parts of the ration to make the 150,000 lbs. flour complete rations. Mr. [Thomas] Buford, the purchasing commissary in Kentucky, has also been directed to forward to St. Mary's 300,000 complete rations; and major White, the contractor to the 41st degree of latitude, to deposit at St Mary's 100,000 complete rations, besides the daily issues that may be wanted there; at Piqua, 30,000 rations besides the daily issues; and at Dayton, 50,000 rations besides the daily issues. The means

of transportation are hired wagons, which may, with exertion, be procured to any amount; between 3 and 400 pack horses in the hands of Mr. Piatt, and 300 others which Mr. Buford was directed to purchase. All these, sir, are made subject to your orders, together with the provisions above reported.

I must request you to state to me what force you wish left at St. Mary's; the officer commanding which, will be directed to wait your orders. There is nothin more wanting to the army than a principal commissary to receive and superintend the issues of provisions. That department exhibits nothing at present but confusion. I had designated major Vooshees, [Peter Gordon Vorhees] of colonel [John] Allen's regiment, to that office; he is, I believe, eminently qualified for it, and he has been in the execution of the duties for some days.

Any other explanations or assistance which I can give you will be afforded with pleasure. [Harrison had not yet received the letter from the Sec. of war, Sept. 17, above]

I am, very sincerely,

Your humble servant.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

HARRISON GENERAL ORDERS

HEAD QUARTERS FORT WAYNE 19th Sept. 1812

Har. Pa. 690, 691

The President of the United States having designated Brigadier General James Winchester to the Command of the army originally destined to relieve General Hull and that officer having arrived at this place, the command is accordingly relinquished to him. Brigadier Genl. [John] Payne, Colonel [Samuel] Wells and Capt. [William] Garrard commanding the several corps composing the army will accordingly report themselves to General Winchester and receive his orders. If anything could soften the regret which the General feels at parting with Troops which have so entirely won his confidence and affection it is the circumstance of his committing them to the charge of one of the Heroes of our glorious Revolution a man distinguished as well for the services he has rendered his country as for the possession of every qualification which constitutes the Gentleman. The General cannot take leave of this gallant army which he has commanded with so much satisfac-

tion without expressing the high sence which he entertains of their conduct. For ten days past they have performed severe duty with scarcely a sufficiency of food to sustain them and entirely without some of the articles which constitutes the ration. They have done it too without a murmur and with an alacrity which could only have been expected from Veteran Troops.

The General requests Brigadier Genl. Payne and every other officer and soldier of the army to accept his thanks for the support they have given him upon every occasion and for the promptitude and alacrity with which his orders have been obeyed. He has taken care to communicate to the governor of Kentucky and through him to the people of that State his opinion of their distinguished merits and his entire confidence in their perseverance in the path of Glory and Patriotism. The General feels equal pride and pleasure in acknowledging the personal attachment which the army has manifested towards him and he assures them that their welfare and glory is the first object of his wishes, and as a means of securing both he most earnestly recommends and entreats that the confidence which they have so often expressed in him may be transferred to his worthy successors.

As governor and commander in chief of the Indiana Territory the general assumes the command of the troops in that Territory by virtue of an authority received from the Hoble. the Secretary of War and as a major general of the Kentucky quota he takes the command of all the Troops of that state north of the Ohio excepting the army of Genl. Winchester.

Harrison to Winchester

St Mary's, 21st September, 1812

Dawson, *Harrison, 296*

Sir,

Colonel [William] Jennings' regiment is now here. I shall immediately set it to open the road from hence to fort Defiance, and will direct the contractor and commissary to push on their provisions. The secretary of war, in a letter received from him since I saw you, urges me to join you, (supposing that I was then in Kentucky) with a reinforcement of the troops subject to my orders. As I have declined the appointment tendered me of brigadier, I cannot comply with his request, as the commission which I have is of higher grade

than yours. I must, therefore, carry the wishes of the President into effect, so far as to place at your disposal the regiments of [Joshua] Barbee and [William] Jennings, and the quota of this state, which I have heretofore required of governor Meigs. The officers commanding these corps will be directed to report to you, and receive your orders. I shall retain the separate command of the mounted men and [Robert] Pogue's regiment, and will communicate to you by an express the particular object at which I shall aim. Be so obliging as to send orders to colonels Barbee and Jennings. The former is at Piqua, and the latter I shall place on the road to Defiance, as I have above intimated.

I am, very respectfully,

Your humble servant

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Brig. Gen. JAMES WINCHESTER

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

ST. MARYS 30 miles advanced of PIQUA 21st Sept. 1812

Har. Pa. 693-696

SIR:

When I had last the honor to address you I was advancing to the relief of Fort Wayne, I reached it with the army on the 12th Inst. A considerable body of Indians had besieged it closely for several days but retreated with precipitation upon our advance having previously consumed the factory and all the other buildings without the fort. Having allowed the troops one day to repose and being unable to pursue the route to fort Defiance until a convoy of provisions should arrive, I determined to employ them a few days in destroying the corn and other provisions at the Potawatomie and Miami towns of Elkhart and the forks of the Wabash. The participation of the Chiefs of both of those villages in the attack upon Fort Wayne having been ascertained by satisfactory testimony adduced to a council of war composed of all the field officers left me no room to hesitate upon the subject. Accordingly upon the 14th the troops were divided into two detachments the first composed of the 4 companies of the 17th U. States Regt. [Dr. John M.] Scotts[1] Regt. of Kenty. militia, 3 companies of

1. "Colonel John M. Scott, who commanded the 1st regiment of Kentucky volunteers, was born in Pennsylvania, and studied physic in New Jersey, under an uncle. When qualified for the profession, he received the appointment of surgeon's mate, in

Kentucky mounted riflemen under the Honble Richd. M. Johnson[2] and about 100 Ohio Riflemen under Col. [James] Dunlap the whole under the command of Col. [Samuel] Wells directed against the Potawatomie village of Elkhart.

The second detachment under the immediate command of Brigd. Genl. [John] Payne was composed of [William] Lewis's and [John] Allen's Regmts. of Kentucky militia and [William] Garrards troop of Dragoons. I accompanied that detachment and we reached the Towns at the forks of the

the regiment then commanded by general Harmar, on the western frontiers. When general Wayne took the command of the western army, Scott was promoted to be surgeon of the 2d United States regiment. It was in this capacity that General Harrison, who was the aid-de-camp of Wayne, first became intimate with him; an attachment of more than *brotherly love* was formed between them. Some time after the peace of Greenville, they both returned from the army. Scott married, and settled in Frankfort, Ky., in the practice of his profession. In both he was very successful. Indeed, there never was a man more universally beloved than Dr. Scott. His uncommon wit, vivacity, and humour made him everywhere sought for by the young and lively, while his good sense, his professional skill, and his incorruptible honor and integrity procured him the esteem of the wise and good. His extremely chivalrous spirit, and his acquaintance with military duty early pointed him out to the young men about Frankfort, and being first appointed to the command of an independent company, he soon rose to the command of the regiment. Before we proceed to mention the catastrophe of this gentleman's fate, evincing his extreme devotion to his country's cause, we shall relate an instance of a different character, shewing the strength of his friendship no less than the tenderness of his nature. During the whole time that Governor Harrison remained at Vincennes, Dr. Scott resided at Frankfort; the distance is one hundred and seventy miles, and at that time two-thirds of the way was unsettled, and yet this generous friend, upon every occasion of Mrs. Harrison's illness, left his practice, his family, and his business to administer relief to the wife of his friend. For some time before the war broke out in 1812, Dr. Scott was in such bad health that it was not supposed he could recover. It was, therefore, not the intention of governor Scott to appoint him to the command of one of the regiments which was to be sent to the relief of Hull. The colonel insisted upon his right, regardless of the consequences, and was accordingly appointed to the command of the 1st regiment of volunteers, to the deep regret of all his friends, who never expected his return. The renewal of old scenes, however, in the army, and the exercise, without a great deal of fatigue, had obviously a good effect upon him, and by the time he reached Fort Wayne, he was evidently better. His regiment here, as above stated, was ordered on the command to destroy the Indian villages at Elk Hart. His officers, who were much attached to him, urged him to remain behind on account of the great fatigue he would have to undergo. As he paid no attention to their remonstrances, the general interfered, and assured the colonel that there would be no fighting in that direction, before the return of the troops. The colonel made no answer, but when he was mounting his horse which stood by, he observed, as if to the horse—'As long as I am able to mount you, none but myself shall lead my regiment, either to fight or not to fight.' Upon the return of the troops from the expedition, it was very apparent that the apprehensions of colonel Scott's friends were well founded. The detachment had undergone great fatigue in a protracted march of nearly three days and nights. The colonel was scarcely able to reach the camp. He continued, however, with the army until it reached fort Defiance, at the mouth of the Auglaize, from which place he was sent to Frankfort in a litter, but died on the second day after his arrival, a victim to his ardent zeal for his country." Dawson, *Harrison, 292-3.*

2. Richard M. Johnson was a native of Kentucky, born 1781 at Floyd's Station near Louisville. Excellent biographies are found in Collins, *Kentucky, 377,* and Young, *Battle of the Thames, 187.* Harrison placed great reliance on Johnson and was not disappointed. Unfortunately they became somewhat estranged later.

Wabash on the evening of the 15th they had been abandoned by the inhabitants several days about 1500 bushells of corn were cut up and destroyed as completely as the state it was in would permit. I returned to Fort Wayne on the 15th and the day after the detachment under Col. Wells returned also having succeeded in destroying the corn and the village at Elk-Hart which had also been several days abandoned by its inhabitants with every mark of precipitancy. Col. Wells Detachment performed the march to the village (60 miles) and back to Fort Wayne in 4 days and a half upon a very scanty allowance of food. The Col. had been ordered to take the late Turtles town in his way and destroy the corn there also, but he was not enabled to accomplish it from the want of provisions. Col. [James] Simrall[3] who had arrived at Fort Wayne during our absence with 4 troops of Kentucky Dragoons (armed with muskets) was accordingly sent the next day on that service and accomplished it. I had no evidence of the inhabitants of that Town having joined in the hostilities against Fort Wayne but as they had fled from it, and the corn would support the hostile Indians in a second attempt upon fort Wayne, it became necessary for the safety of that place that it should be destroyed. I have however no doubt of the hostile disposition of the Miami generally. Many of the chiefs are no doubt desirous of preserving their friendly relations with us, but as they are unable to control the licentious part of their tribe it is impossible to discriminate. If we have no alternative but operating upon their fears by severe chastisement I am convinced that the appearance of so large a force at Fort Wayne and the destruction of the Indian villages and property will be of considerable service to our future operations. Genl. Winchester arrived at Fort Wayne on the 18th. On the 19th the enclosed order was issued surrendering to him the command. [See Sept. 19 above] In my letter of the 3d inst. I took the liberty of requesting you to permit me to suspend my decision as to the acceptance of the commission of Brig. which the President was pleased to confer upon me. I should not have done so if I were not fully convinced that it was the almost unanimous wish of the people of the western

3. James Simrall was born March 18, 1781, at West Chester, Pa. He moved to Va. and by 1792 was with his parents at Shelbyville, Ky. When his first regiment was disbanded he raised another in 1813. He was at the battle of the Thames and took charge of the British prisoners. He died Sept. 9, 1823, while at the lead mines of Galena, Ill., on business.

Young, *Battle of the Thames, 158*

country that I should not accept of an appointment which would place me in a subordinate situation in this army. Before Genl. Winchester left Lexington to come on hither he was spoken to by several members of Congress and others who were apprehensive of some collision between us. He was understood to say that he would make no difficulty in giving me the command, the Genl. however said nothing to me upon the subject and I was obliged to propose that we should divide the force and act in support of each other. When I left him it was my intention to have resumed the plan formerly communicated of an expedition against the Prophet's establishment on Tippecanoe and the Potawatimie Villages between that place and Lake Michigan. Upon the way however I had the honor to receive your letter of the 1st inst. urging me to contribute towards the main object of the campaign by my personal assistance. It required but a moments reflection to determine upon the course I was to pursue. From Fort Wayne there is a path which has been sometimes used by the French traders in their journeys to Detroit leading up the St. Josephs River and from thence across by the head waters of the River Resin to Detroit. It appears to me highly practicable with the mounted force by this route to surprise and retake Detroit. The force which I was preparing for the Wabash expedition would answer for the purpose. Upon my arrival here however I found that the agent whom I had employed to hire horses had not been so successful as was expected not more than 140 having been procured and the day of Rendezvous having unfortunately been fixed too early, several companies which were raised in Kentucky to join me for the expedition finding they would be too late turned their course to Vincennes. I have however about 1100 mounted men and I have resolved to wait here for some days until I can make them 1800. This delay inconvenient from the inaction which it occasions to the troops already assembled is not without its advantages. If I should succeed in the surprise of Detroit before the main army shall arrive at least as far as the Rapids, it may be necessary to abandon it for the want of provisions and such is the state of the supplies for the army that it will require all my exertions for 7 or 8 days to place them upon a footing which will give security to our future operations and which the rapidity of my movements hereto-

fore would not permit me to attend. I have noted your observation upon the subject of the appointment of an officer to command on the frontiers of the Territories. With respect to my appointment as a Brigd. I should certainly not think that I had a right to complain if the public service should make it necessary for the President to bestow it elsewhere nor indeed with any other arrangements but that which would reduce me from the chief to the second in command, an event which has perhaps never before occurred in any army.

I have the honor to be Sir with great respect Yr. Hbl. Svt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble. WM. EUSTIS Esqr. *Secy. of War*

MOUNTED VOLUNTEERS

(The following has been distributed through the county in handbills) (Circular)

ST MARY'S, Sept. 21, 1812

Cincinnati *Liberty Hall, Sept. 25, 1812*

SIR: As the force which I have collected at this place (of mounted men) is not sufficient to accomplish the object of the expedition which it was proposed to set out from hence—you are hereby authorized to circulate through the country my wishes to be joined by any number of mounted men (corps organized will be preferred) under the authority heretofore given by governor Meigs. Companies may join me to serve on the expedition, and which will furnish their own horses, will have credit for a tour of duty and the expedition is not expected to continue more than 30 days and at any rate not extend beyond 40.

I am

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

P. S. The men must bring as much bacon as possible and any of them that will bring on a spare horse, with a saddle and bridle shall be allowed fifty cents per day for the use of them. The bearer is authorized to hire horses and give certificates which will be taken up and paid for by the quartermaster.

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT Sept. 23, 1812

Har. Pa. 31

SIR:

Your letter of the 5th Instant [see above] has been received. As the difficulty of obtaining supplies particularly of provisions, through the wilderness, appears to be one of the greatest obstacles with which you will have to contend, which difficulty it is well known increases as the season advances, your own judgment, the information you possess and will acquire on this subject, will enable you to determine how far it may be practicable to advance and what posts or stations it may be expedient to maintain during the winter. You are already apprised of the solicitude of the Government that every thing that can be done should be done towards recovering the ground lost and extending successful operations into Canada.

The Contractors, Commissaries and quarter masters Departments are subject to your Orders, and will be further urged to make every effort to comply with your Requisitions.

B. General, WM. H. HARRISON, *Comd. the N. W. army*

HARRISON TO JENNINGS

HEAD QUARTERS, ST. MARY'S, 24th September, 1812

Dawson, *Harrison, 297*

SIR,

It has become necessary to open a road from this place to fort Defiance by the way of Tawa town, [Putnam Co. O.] and to build a block house in the intermediate, as nearly central as a good situation can be had. You will, with your regiment, proceed to this duty immediately. Some of the friendly Indians will be employed as guides, and Mr. William Conner will attend you and act as interpreter. A number of wagons and pack horses will set out from this place to-morrow morning; it will be proper to send two companies to escort them, with directions to open the road only wide enough to allow the wagons to pass, and direct them to proceed with the utmost expedition.

It will be proper, also, that the pack horses should be detached ahead as soon as they arrive within 25 or 30 miles of Defiance, under an escort of thirty men; the remaining part

of the regiment will follow the wagons, and open the road, so as to have all the small timber removed, at least to the distance of 30 feet; upon your arrival at the spot upon which you may think proper to erect the block house, you will immediately clear a place, and proceed to build it. It should be of the largest size of such buildings—not less than 25 feet in the bottom story.

You will be reinforced or relieved by colonel [Robert] Poague or colonel [Joshua] Barbee's regiments, if there should be occasion for it before the work is completed. I am, very respectfully, your humble servant.

Col. WM. JENNINGS, *commanding 2d regt. Kentucky quota militia*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

HEAD QUARTERS PIQUA Sept. 24th 1812

Har. Pa. 697-702

SIR:

I arrived here late this evening for the purpose of expediting the supplies for the army where I had the honor of receiving your favor of the 17th Inst. [Command of the Northwestern army. See Sept 17 above] The important command which the President has been pleased to confer upon me, will call forth every faculty of my mind, for the service of my country, as it has every feeling of gratitude towards himself.

The situation of the troops in advance of this is three Kentucky Regiments of Infantry. Capt. [William] Garrard troop of twelve months Dragoons and Col. [Samuel] Wells detachment of Regulars making something above 2000 are marching from Fort Wayne to the site of old Fort Defiance under Genl. Winchester; one other Regt. [Jennings] of Kentucky troops employed in cutting a road from St. Marys (designated on the map "Girtys town") to Fort Defiance and erecting an intermediate blockhouse; one Regt. compleating the Fort at St. Marys and another will march from this place tomorrow morning; four troops of Dragoons (armed with muskets) and Major Richard M. Johnson's Battalion of mounted riflemen were at Fort Wayne a few days ago. I authorized their return to St. Marys after they had consumed the corn at the Turtles town. Before I set out this morning

from St. Marys I directed Col. [James] Finley[1] (an old Revolutionary Virg. Col. of mine) to move with his Regt. of mounted men 350 strong to destroy an Ottawa town on the waters of the AuGlaize about 40 miles distant; their tribe are at war with us they furnished a large portion of the Indian force which assisted in capturing Genl. Hull and some of the same village are now known to be at Malden. There are besides on St. Marys about 200 Kentucky mounted riflemen, and a troop (40 strong) of Dragoons, I accepted them for six months because they are the only corps in the whole army that were armed with swords and pistols. I expect an additional force in a few days of several hundred mounted volunteers, and should I not be able to take command of them myself, I will select an officer to execute with them (if not the surprise of Detroit) some achievement to give eclat to our arms.

I have with me a servant of Genl. [James] Taylor's who made his escape from Malden two weeks ago this day. He informs me that the Indians at and near Malden had increased to a prodigious number and that they daily arrived in birch bark canoes from the north. A considerable number of them are encamped at Brownstown, a situation very favourable for surprising them, which shall certainly be attempted.

Being fully persuaded that provision for the army may be obtained here much cheaper than at Pittsburgh, I have written to Major [Ebenezer] Denny not to purchase more than four hundred thousand rations until he should receive further instructions from you. There is an abundance of beef, flour and whisky to be procured here; and unless it is expected to control the navigation of Lake Erie and send the provisions which Major Denny may purchase by that route to Detroit I am confident it would be better and safer to procure them here. I recollect that the army was several times during Genl. Waynes command upon the point of being starved from the difficulty of getting provisions down the Ohio in the fall season after they had been procured at Pittsburgh. I have put in requisition about five hundred and fifty thousand rations to be deposited at St. Marys and Urbana; three hundred thou-

1. Gen. James Findlay was born in Franklin Co., Pa., 1770. Came to Cincinnati about 1795, having first moved to Va. and then to Ky. He took a prominent part in the early history of Ohio, was associated with Harrison and Jacob Burnet and others in business. Died at Cincinnati, 1835.

Howe, *Hist. Coll. II, 149*

sand will be at the former place by tomorrow evening; and I shall forthwith direct a purchase of Four hundred thousand and shall then wait your decision as to the Pittsburgh Order. The road from Urbana to the Miami rapids will not answer for wheel carriages, it will do however for Packhorses, I shall consult with some inteligent persons from that quarter and determine upon the propriety of extending my *base* further Eastwardly and having a deposit towards Sandusky. I have had no return of the Ohio troops but believe them to be about nine hundred, they will take the Urbana route.

I have provided for vigorous operations on the Wabash and hope to be able to extend them to the Illinois river.

Upon my arrival at Fort Wayne charges of so serious a nature were exhibited against Capt. [James] Rhea that I arrested him; He agreed to resign and I have given him until the 30th of December to return home, at which time his pay & emoluments will cease. Upon examining the valuation of the horses which were hired for mounting the Infantry for the Expedition they were found to be valued so low and the delay in returning them likely to be so great, that it was thought best to purchase them at the valuation, for this purpose I drew on you in favor of Mr. Jesse Hunt whom I employed in this business for Six thousand Dollars on the 22 Inst and on the 21st for four thousand Dollars in favor of Mr. John H. Piatt, Dy. to Col. [Thomas] Buford to purchase and equip Packhorses, and on the 23 in favor of Maj. T. Bodley Q. Master Genl. of the Kenty quota a set of bills for One thousand Dollars, another set for two thousand Dollars and a third for three thousand Dollars, being for the general expences of the Quarter Master department.

A detachment of Artillerists are much wanted from the Old Corps, I cannot suppose that the Offices of the newly raised Regt. of which there is a Capt. in this State understand much of their duty

I have the honor to be with great respect
Yr. hb. Servt

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble WILLIAM EUSTIS, Esq. *Sec. of war*

(Recd Oct. 6, 1812)

Harrison to Winchester

Sept. 25, 1812

Dawson, *Harrison, 301*

Dear Sir,

I arrived here [Piqua] yesterday, for the purpose of making some arrangements in the commissary's department. After night, an express arrived, with a packet of letters from the office at Chillicothe, directed to me. Upon opening it, and breaking the seals, one after the other, I incautiously broke that of the enclosed letter, which I soon discovered was for you. The same express brought me another letter from the war department, announcing my appointment to the command of the north-western army. Need I add, that it would give me the most heartfelt pleasure if you could determine to remain with us. The secretary informs me, that the army is to be ten thousand strong, artillery is providing at Pittsburgh, an engineer is coming on, a major's command of cavalry, and every necessary power given.

I shall necessarily be detained here for some days, expecting to see governor Meigs and general [Edward] Tupper.[1] I hope at least that you will continue in command until my arrival. I have written to general [John] Payne, but have said nothing about my resumming the command, choosing that you should announce it in the manner you thought best.

Jennings to Harrison

Tawa Town,[1] September 26, 1812

Sir,

My highest pride as a soldier is to be obedient to my superiors, and thereby render to my country all that she ought to expect. I may not be a judge of what a regiment in the woods can do, but my opinion clearly is, that more is imposed on me than can be well done. I have now under my cover near 300 bullocks and nearly 200 pack horses, besides a number of wagons. To say nothing about an enemy, I deem it impracticable to take care of the cattle upon a march and have to

1. Edward W. Tupper lived in Gallipolis. He raised his regiment from Gallia, Jackson and Lawrence counties.

Howe, *Hist. Col. I, 680*

1. Tawa was an abbreviation of Ottawa. There were two Ottawa villages about two miles apart on Blanchard fork of the Auglaize. Tawa town was the lower village, near Ottawa.

open the road. I am here in the situation above described and rest assured that nothing shall be wanting on my part to take care of the public property, and facilitate my movements towards fort Defiance as fast as possible, considering the duties I have to perform on my march.

I am, dear sir, with sentiments of high respect,

Your obedient servant

WILLIAM JENNINGS, *L. C. C. 2d regt. Ky. vol.*

Major General HARRISON

SHELBY TO HARRISON

FRANKFORT, KY., Sept. 26th, 1812

Isaac Shelby's Letter Book, A, 24

DEAR SIR:

I was honored last evening with the receipt of your Excellency's favor of the 18th inst. [see above] which is the first intimation we have had of your position for twenty days.

I assure you, my dear sir, that it affords me the highest gratification to learn from you that my fellow citizens of Kentucky under your command have conducted themselves so much to your satisfaction, and I feel an entire confidence that the Mounted Volunteers who are now on their march under your last requisition will do honour to themselves and to the country from which they are drawn should an opportunity offer by which they can signalize themselves.

You state that you were about to surrender up the command of a part of the army to Gen. Winchester in consequence of an arrangement of the War Office and that you should set out on that day or the next to take command of the troops which you were collecting in the rear for an expedition from which you anticipated the most beneficial results, &c. Having received this information from you I deem it highly proper and expedient to appraise you as early as possible of the force and movements of Gen. [Samuel] Hopkins with his Mounted Volunteers, that you may be able to take your measures in that quarter with more effect and certainty.

General Hopkins rendezvoused at Vincennes on the 24th inst. His whole force in my opinion would not be less than two thousand or upwards of mounted Volunteers of the most respectable citizens that perhaps ever were embodied from

this or any other State in the Union. I went to Louisville myself to forward them on by companies and detachments as they came up, and readily confess I have never seen such a body of men in the Western country, or anywhere else.

I hope most sincerely that no difficulty will arise between you and General Hopkins respecting command. The Laws of the United States and the powers invested in you by the President, will, I assume, be a certain criterion and guide in this particular case. The Mounted Volunteers were called into service under your requisition. I cannot for a moment suppose that General Hopkins will attempt anything that is not strictly military, at the same time I believe he would assert his just right. I trust no difference of opinion will arise. The General had been requested to go on by Mr. [John] Gibson, the Acting Governor of Indiana, shortly before he received my instructions to do so.

Your Excellency will at once see with me the necessity and propriety of opening a correspondence with General Hopkins, to appraise him of your movements, and of the route by which he could render most service to his country without interfering with your objects, or whether from anything you know that a junction of the two armies would redound most to the interest of our country; and it will be highly proper, my dear sir, that you should invest General Hopkins with power to direct the purchase of beef cattle where they are to be had to follow him on in case he should fail of a full supply in the enemy's country.

I expect that on tomorrow or the next day he will move on from Vincennes against the nearest point of the enemy.

I have no doubt but a few men could make their way from where you are to strike the trail of General Hopkins' army somewhere above Vincennes or as high as Fort Harrison. Your whole force acting in concert would strike a fatal blow to the Indians and crush them at a moment when they little expect to see a force of any description in their land.

I have deemed it so important to the public interest to appraise you of the force under General Hopkins, as to judge it necessary to send this express at public expense to you, which Your Excellency will be pleased to cover by your order to the proper officer if it should strike you in the same light.

I have forwarded by mail this morning to General Hopkins

a copy of your letter of the 16th inst. and herewith enclose you a paper which contains the latest accounts from Fort Harrison, and may be relied on as respects that place and the march of Col. [William] Russell, who I hope will give a good account of those fellows who infested that garrison so long.

I have the honour, &c.,

ISAAC SHELBY

His Excellency, WM. H. HARRISON

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT Sept. 26, 1812

Har. Pa. 32

SIR:

I have the honor to inclose for your information Lists of Ordnance and Military Stores which have been ordered from Philadelphia and this place to Pittsburg since the 1st. Instant in addition to those at that place and coming in under contracts from that vicinity. The cannons, ammunition, shoes, blankets, and part of the other Stores are on the way, and most of them will probably reach that place before the 5th of October. Major [Amos] Stoddard the Department Quarter Master will continue to forward supplies to you and will advise you of all his issues to the Troops, as well as those sent forward to the Army, and keep you informed of all the resources at Pittsburg.

The best information of our forces on the Lower Lakes is contained in the inclosed Extracts of a Letter from General Dearborn of the 14th Instant. Two thousand Militia from Pennsylvania, making part of this force, and destined for Niagara, were ordered by the Governor of that State to rendezvous at Meadsville on the 20th Instant, about 50 miles from Presque Isle, from whence they will continue their march and join the Regulars and other Troops assembling at Niagara. From these statements you will perceive that it is impossible for me to determine the precise time at which offensive operations will be commenced at that point, and it is desirable that you should communicate with the Commanding Officer at Niagara who will be able to inform you of the movements of the Troops under Command of General Dearborn.

Br. General WM. H. HARRISON *Comd. the N. W. Army*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

HEAD QUARTERS PIQUA Sept. 27, 1812

Har. Pa. 703-709

SIR,

The final arrangements for the march of the Army toward Detroit is as follows. The right collumn composed of the Pennsylvania & Virginia Troops are directed to rendezvous at Wooster a Town upon the Head Waters of Moheccon John's Creek[1] 35 miles north of Mount Vernon and 45 west of Canton and proceed from thence by the upper Sandusky to the Rapids of Miami. The middle collumns consisting of twelve hundred Ohio Militia will March from Urbana where they now are along Genl Hull's trace to the Rapids and the left column composed of the detachment of Regular troops under Col. [Samuel] Wells and four Kentucky Regiments will proceed from Fort Defiance down the Miami to the Rapids. The mounted force under an officer whom I shall sellect for the purpose will take the route mentioned in my former letter from Fort Wayne up the Saint Josephs and across to the waters of the River Raisin.

upon reflection I am induced to abandon the scheme of attacking Detroit for should it be successful as the infantry will not be in readiness to support them it must necessarily be abandoned and the inhabitants be more exposed to the depredations of the Indians than they now are. A more useful employment will be to sweep the hither side of the straight and Lake of the Indians, who are scattered from Brownstown to the Rapids rioting upon the plunder of the farms which have been abandoned. I expect to have near Three hundred thousand Rations (purchased by the Commissary) at Fort Defiance in the course of the present week and two hundred thousand at Urbana, the latter to be taken upon Pack Horses, both these Deposits will be taken at two trips to the Rapids. I have directed the Contractor White to deposit 200,000 Rations at the second Block House 42 miles beyond Urbana, 200,000 at a Block House which is now building between Saint Marys and Defiance and the like quantity at Wooster. At the latter place also Mr. John H. Piatt is about to deposit 500,000. Rations and to procure the means of transporting it to Detroit.

1. Wooster, in Wayne Co. is on the old trail from Fort Duquesne (Pittsburgh) to Sandusky. In Wayne Co. it crossed a Mohican hunting trail. The road crossed the Mohican at Mohican John's Town or Mohican Johnstown.

I have also directed Major [Ebenezer] Denny to send to the same place the 400,000 Rations which he has been directed to purchase at Pittsburgh. I am confirmed in the opinion which I before gave that supplies of provisions can be obtained in this state. However I shall take measures to ascertain it and write to Major Denny if there should be a necessity for progressing in the purchase of the 1,980,000 Rations. I have dispatched an express this day to Pittsburgh to direct that the Artillery and all the supplies for the N. W. Army should be sent to George Town upon the Ohio and from thence by New Lisbon & Canton to Wooster.

In consequence of my application to the Governor of Kentucky I have understood that 1600 mounted men have gone from that State to Vincennes. I have directed them to be employed against Tippecanoe and Peoria on the Ilinois River with the addition of the Rangers & some other companies in the Territories they will form a force of 2400 men.

Agreeably to the authority given me by your letter of the 17th I have appointed Mr. John H. Piatt Deputy Commissary. He is the same person that was employed by Genl. Hull and will I think make a most excellent officer.

There is nothing that gives me more apprehension than the destitute condition of many of my men in the article of clothing and Blankets. It appears to me that it is impossible that they can act in such a Climate as that of Canada without warm clothing. I have applied to the Governor of Kentucky and have addressed the Citizens of that state on the subject myself. Great exertions will I am persuaded be made to relieve them but I must beg leave to recommend that some assistance if possible be afforded by the government. I have put in requisition all the woolens that have been sent on for the Indians and will have them distributed and accounts kept against the men who receive them that the price may be deducted from their pay.

I have the honor to be with very great respect Sir.

Your mo. ob. se.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble WILLIAM EUSTIS *Secy of War*

P. S. I fear the Western Country cannot furnish shoes and Blankets for the Troops.

Permit me to recommend that a supply of those articles and if possible Woolen Jackets & Overals be sent on from Pittsburgh to Wooster by land to be disposed of to the Militia in the same manner that the surplus clothing is to the Regular Troops. It appears to me proper also that the Government should furnish Watch Coats for the Militia Centinels. From the short period of their service they cannot purchase those things out of their own pay. I have therefore taken upon myself the responsibility of directing them to be procured. I fear however that materials cannot be found below Pittsburgh —Lieut Johnson has orders to furnish 150 from thence. It is fortunate that there is with the Army many members of Congress [John Simpson, Samuel McKee, Thomas Montgomery, Richard M. Johnson, George Madison & perhaps others] who will be enabled to give testimony that will not be questioned upon the floor of that body as to the propriety and necessity of many alterations in our military arrangements. I have no less than seven members Elect of the next Congress under my command and two of them Messrs. [Richard M.] Johnson & [Samuel] McKee belong to the present House of Representitives.

W. H. H.

Shelby to James Blair

Frankfort, Ky., Sept. 28th, 1812

Ky. Reg. State Hist. Soc. VIII, 20

Sir:

I submit the inquiries contained in the enclosed letter from S. J. Dawson, Comdt. of the 14th Regt. of the State Militia for your opinion thereon.

A question has arose whether the Volunteers who first enrolled their names under the Act of Congress of the 10th of April, 1812 as part of the Detached Militia of this State's quota of 100,000 men, and afterwards failed to march with their respective companies, are to be considered as deserters, or are those men who were afterwards drafted to make up such deficiency and also failed to march to be considered as such, and if they are, what is the punishment or fine which they are liable to, and can they be proceeded against before the captain to whose company they belonged returns from the expedition and reports them as deserters to the Col. of the 14th Regiment.

As this is a case that may arise in various regiments, be so good as to examine the laws in force on these points and give me your opinion thereon as soon as convenient, and oblige, sir, etc.

ISAAC SHELBY

JAMES BLAIR, Esq., *Atty. Gen. of Kentucky*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

HEAD QUARTERS ST. MARYS 29th Sept. 1812

Har. Pa. 710

SIR:

I have thought it proper to appoint Mr. Thos. Butler[1] to act as Quarter Master for the troops under Genl. [Samuel] Hopkins in the Indiana Territory until the decision of the President can be known. Mr. Butler was many years an officer in the Army and when he resigned (a year ago) was perhaps the oldest Lt. in his Regt. he has experience & capacity to qualify him for the appointment he will accept of the commission of Ensign in any of the Regiments.

I have the honor to be with great Respect.

Yr. Hbe. Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble WM. EUSTIS Esq. *Secy of War*

HARRISON TO THE PEOPLE OF KENTUCKY

about Oct. 1812

Dawson, *Harrison, 305*

FELLOW CITIZENS,

The executive of your state acting, as it was believed, in unison with your wishes, have conferred on me the command of that part of the state quota of militia, which was destined to relieve Detroit. The general government has confirmed and extended my command to all the troops which have been called into service from the western states. Upon the point of leading these brave men into a rigorous northern climate, I discover that many of them are without blankets, and much the greater part of them totally destitute of every article of

1. Thomas L. Butler of Ky. was a captain in the Rev. He joined the Art. Apr. 13, 1809, but resigned Sept. 1, 1811. June 30, 1813, he was made capt. in the 28th U. S. Inf. Brev. Major for gallantry at New Orleans. Died Oct. 21, 1880.

winter clothing. It is impracticable to procure the supplies necessary for them from the public stores, and there is no alternative but in your feeling and patriotism. A contribution of articles which will not be felt by you, will enable your soldiers to withstand the keen northern blasts with as much fortitude as they will the assaults of the enemy. Can any patriot sleep easy in his bed of down when he reflects upon the situation of a centinel exposed to the cold of a winter night in Canada, in a linen hunting shirt? Will the amiable fair sex suffer their brave defenders to be mutilated by the frost for the want of the mittens and socks which they can with little exertion procure for them? I trust that I know my fair countrywomen too well not to believe that this appeal to their patriotism and liberality will be effectual.

Blankets, overalls, roundabout jackets, shoes, socks, and mittens are the articles most wanted. Colonel Thomas Buford, the deputy commissary-general, will provide for the transportation of the articles, and will pay for the blankets and shoes, if required.

Winchester General Orders

Camp at Defiance, October 3, 1812

Dawson, *Harrison, 308*

I have the honor of announcing to this army the arrival of General Harrison, who is duly authorized by the executive of the federal government, to take the command of the northwestern army.

This officer, enjoying the implicit confidence of the states from whose citizens this army is and will be collected, and possessing himself great military skill and reputation, the general is confident in the belief that his presence in this army, in the character of its chief, will be hailed with universal approbation.

J. Winchester, *Brigadier-general U. States army*

Harrison to Winchester

Head Quarters, Fort Defiance, 4th Oct. 1812

Dawson, *Harrison, 309*

Sir,

Being obliged to repair to Wooster, the rendezvous of the right wing of the army, the whole arrangement for the sup-

ply and march of the left wing is committed to you. The means and situation of the troops are as follows: There are now at St. Mary's nearly three hundred thousand rations of flour and whiskey, and the greater part of the small component parts, and 15 or 20,000 rations of biscuit and bacon; at Jennings' block-house [S. W. Corner Putnam Co. O.] there were, on the 1st inst. 240 beeves, supposed to average 400 lbs. and about 100 packs loaded with flour; 35 or 40 wagons loaded with flour and biscuit were to leave St. Mary's on the 2d instant for the said block-house; and upwards of 200 beeves were ordered on to the former place, (St. Mary's.) from the neighborhood of Hamilton. All these articles above enumerated have been purchased by the deputy commissaries, and are exclusive of the supplies provided by the contractor, who has been instructed to deposit 200,000 complete rations at fort Jennings, which is understood to be the last place upon this route within his contract. He has been further directed to provide for all the troops at and in the rear of that place. Of the three regiments belonging to your command which are in the rear, [Robert] Pogue's is employed cutting the road from Jennings' block-house to this place, [William] Jennings' is at the block-house, and [Joshua] Barbee's, and a battalion of Ohio troops under major [Joseph] Jenkinson, (which will continue under your command until the arrival of the army at the general rendezvous), have been ordered back to St. Mary's. The reasons for the latter arrangement were to afford the means of escort to the provisions between St. Mary's and fort Jennings, and to spare the provisions which have been purchased for the use of the army in advance of the district of major White. I have directed the commissary, Mr. [John H.] Piatt, to procure all the wagons in his power for transporting the provisions from St. Mary's to this place. Major [Thomas] Bodley, the quarter-master for the Kentucky quota, will also remain at St. Mary's with a deputy commissary, to superintend the transportation, and will attend to any orders you may give them. Major Bodley will also attend to the forwarding of the artillery and all the stores of the quartermaster's and ordnance department. He will be instructed to provide, under your order, for any deficiencies which may exist. With respect to your movements in advance, I must observe, that it is extremely desirable that you should occupy

the rapids of Miami as speedily as possible, for the purpose of securing the corn which is growing there, and which is believed to amount to several hundred acres, an object of no little importance to the future movements of the army. The number of troops which it will be proper to leave in your rear to bring up the provisions, and other necessares, which you may be unable to take with you, is left to your discretion, and must depend, in a great measure, upon the quantity of them that may be left, the number of trips which it may require to bring them to the rapids, and the size of the escort which you may deem necessary to protect them.

I will communicate with you frequently, and from St. Mary's will inform you of everything which I may think material to your operations.

With great respect and consideration.

Your humble servant,

WM. HENRY HARRISON

Brig. Gen. WINCHESTER
Commanding Left wing of army

HOPKINS TO HARRISON

(Copy)

CAMP BUSSARON Oct. 6th 1812

Har. Pa. 731, 732

DEAR SIR

Dispatches were received by me last evening containing yours made thro' the Governor of that State enlarging my power here. I am just on the eve of marching from this place with about two thousand mounted Volunteers. Those men have come on to this Country, unorganised and were arriving at Vincennes for eight or ten days, to organise them and make out such details as I conceived Necessary for their rights, was a labour of considerable magnitude added to this the dificulty of procuring provisions for so large an army the quantity for compleating the campaign being necessary to be in advance or nearly so, as we shall have no mode of transportation except on our horses, has detained us from the 25th. ult. until the present, we shall leave this tomorrow-morning tollerably provided for.

My object certainly will be to break up and do as much damage as possible to all the hostile tribes on the Illinois & Wabash rivers as well as those between the Rivers.

I do not understand the Secretary of War requiring explanations from several of those tribes, they are all considered hostile and will be dealt with accordingly.

This army will probable cross the River at Ft. Harrisson and make the first stroke at Pioria, and proceed up that River as far as circumstances shall dictate best, and recross the Country to the Wabash, chastissing as many of the tribes on that river as we can meet with, and every exertion shall be used to make our campaign as extensive in its effects as possible.

I have placed on the Frontier between Vincennes & Louisville about One hundred & fifty men well officered and arranged at different Situations with directions to range that Country so as completely to protect the citizens and the road.

Col. [William] Russell[1] this day receives orders to repair to the Camp on the Illinois, and as soon as possible prepare and commence a Campaign with all the force he can raise up that river so that he may probably meet us at Pioria, he thinks he can raise eight hundred men, that force it is presumed will be sufficient for that purpose.

As the term of service for which the mounted men engaged is short, and part of that exhausted, I shall certainly persue the objects of my present expedition with vigour. The Brigade of six Months Infantry now under the command of General Wilcox will be prepared for operations which will commence after the mounted men are discharged. I have the honor Sir to be

Yrs Mt Respectfully.

SAML. HOPKINS

P. S. I shall embrace every means to keep you advised of our operations & will be thankful for your cummunications

GOV. HARRISON

Truly Copied GEORGE TROTTER[2] Junr.

1. William Russell was born in Culpepper Co., Va., 1758. In 1774 he joined Boone and by 1780 after serving in the Rev. was in Ky. having fought Indians in Tenn. He fought at King's Mountain and Guilford C. H. Later he was with both Scott and Wilkinson in their raids on the Wabash; commanded a Ky. regiment under Wayne. He died at his home in Fayette Co., Ky., 1825. Collins, *Kentucky*, 502

2. George Trotter was of Irish family which came to Ky. via Philadelphia and Augusta Co., Va. He was born in Augusta Co., Nov. 8, 1778. After serving through the war he died suddenly at his home in Lexington, Oct. 13, 1815.

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT October 7, 1812

Har. Pa. 33

SIR,

Your letters of Sept. 24th and 27th [see above] have been received. It appears by the Report of Major [Ebenezer] Denny that a proportion of Flour Whiskey, and Salt necessary for the 1,098,000 Rations ordered by my letter of Sept. 1st, a copy of which was inclosed to you & by your letter of the 27th seems to have [Missing]

Br. General WM. H. HARRISON, Piqua

MEIGS TO HARRISON

URBANA Oct 11

Har. Pa. 724

SIR:

Gen [Edward] Tupper & the Ohio Volunteers have this moment returned—It appears to be by Gen: Tupper acct that Gen Winchester has played the Devil—You will have soon an Acct— R. J. MEIGS

STICKNEY TO HARRISON

PIQUA Octr. 11th 1812

Har. Pa. 723

SIR

John Conner arrived here from the Delawares Yesterday and informs that the Miamis have sent them nine messages to invite them to go to War with the U. States in the short time of eighteen days and that the 2 last of them were while he was there on the 1st & 3d. inst. The one that arrived on the 1st left Mississinaway at the same time that the Messengers did to beg peace of you at St. Mary's. Connor says he was present when the Messengers delivered his message to the Delawares on the 1st and he says the Messenger presented a large belt of Wampum painted red and urged very strongly the necessity of the Delawares joining in the War against the U. S. Altho the Delawares rejected firmly all the proposals of the Miamis to take part in the War, yet, they say they have so many sick that they cannot come to Piqua.

I have the honor to be Yr. Obt. Servt. B. F. STICKNEY

Exy. WM. H. HARRISON

I certify the above to be a true copy

WM. P. HUNTER *A. D. C.*

W. K. JORDAN TO HIS WIFE

FORT WAYNE October 12th, 1812

BETSEY: I now lift my pen to inform you that I am in a good state of health, after a long and sore journey through the Indian country. I started from Ft. Wayne on the 1st of August with Cap. [William] Wells, and 100 pretended Indian friends, to go to Fort Dearborn, on Lake Michigan, which is 200 miles from Fort Wayne. For guarding Cap. Heald and his company as he was in danger of being taken by the British, and had recieved orders to evacuate that Fort and march to Fort Wayne. We got to Fort Dearborn on the 10th of August unmolested, destroyed all that we could not fetch with us and prepared for a March on the Morning of the 15th. The morning of the 15th now arrives, the most lamentable day I ever saw. Held's men consisted of 100 men, 10 women, and 20 children, total amounting to 130. Wells and myself and our 100 pretended Indian friends making in all 232.

Now we leave Fort Dearborn, about 8 o'clock in the morning, bound for Fort Wayne, and marched about one mile when we were attacked with 500 Kickapoos and Winebago Indians and our pretended friends joined them. Our engagement lasted about 10 minutes, when there was every man, woman and child killed but 15, and, thanks be to God, I was one of them. The first shot took the feather out of my cap, the next shot the epulett off my shoulder, and the third broke the handle of my sword. I had to surrender myself to four dammed yellow Indians. They marched up to where Wells lay, and one of them spoke English and said, "Jordan, I know you, you gave me some tobacco at Fort Wayne. You shant be killed. "But see what I will do with your Captain." He then cut off his head and stuck it on a pole, while another took out his heart and divided it among the chiefs, and they ate it up raw. When they gulped all they gathered in around ring, with us poor devils in the middle, and had like to fall out who should have the prisoners. But my old chief, The White Raccoon, held me by the hand. They stripped all of us of our shirts and trousers, and every family took one as long as we lasted, and then started for their towns. Every man to his tent, O Isreal. But I will just inform you when I got to my strange lodging I looked like a cat in a strange garret. But I made myself as comfortable as possible under my pres-

ent circumstances. Night came on, they tied me hard and fast and placed a guard over me. I laid down and slept soundly till morning, for I was tired. They untied me in the morning and set me to parching corn. I worked all day very attentively. At night my old chief told me that if I would stay and not run away that I would be chief, but if I attempted to run away they would catch me and burn me alive. I told him a fine story, so they did not tie me that night. As for the particulars I haven't time to write them, but I made my escape on the 19th, and stole one of their horses and came to Fort Wayne on the 26th, (being seven days in the wilderness) where I was recieved joyfully. On the 26th the Indians attacked Fort Wayne, so they cut off all intercourse. They thought to starve us out, but one friend Indian came in and we sent him to Governor Harrison, which came to our relief on the 16th of September with 3,000 volunteers. When the Gov. came on he broke our Captain [Rhea] for cowardice. I just mention this that if it should be my lot to fall that you may know how to come to my right. I belong to Captain Jas. Rha, in the 1st regiment of Infantry. Our paymaster was killed, or taken, at Detroit, so I have not recieved one cent of pay, and but half of my bounty, which was 8 dollars. I now am sargent, my pay is 7 dollars a month, I only served 15 days as a private.

What spare time I have I assist the comasary, so that keeps me tea, sugar, and so forth. After all my fun I weigh 190.

One word to you Betsey, for if I was now speaking to you it would be my own language. I have two letters of yours before me, and some of the soft hair of your head, and some in a small plait around my neck. I must say that I am sorry to see your pen breathe ridicule, for if I deserve it, it wont cure it. Don't conclude from these words that I am tired of your letters, but tell me how you are, and how the children are, and for God's sake try to send Mountford to school. It ain't one time in ten that I can write to you, but you can write when you please. I gave 50 cents for this paper. Direct your letters to the care of Lieutenant [Philip] Ostrander, for we have no cap. now. Tell me if the men is drafted in your country.

You will do W. K. Jordan a favor if you send Hunter a copy of this letter. So give my comps to all inquiring friends.

Give my best respects to your father and mother and all your brothers, and this line of kisses to my hearts delight ————, and the boys tell them what you please, and these for yourself ————.

So I conclude with my best respects to you till death, or till I see you. So I subscribe by name this 12th night of October, 1812.

W. K. JORDAN,[1] *Seargent*

TUPPER TO HARRISON

URBANA, Oct. 12th, 1812

Niles Register III, 167-169

SIR—

On receiving your orders of the 4th inst. to proceed to the Rapids with the whole force of mounted men under my command, whose horses were in a condition to perform the service; I caused an examination to be immediately had; and found that there still remained 960 men including officers, in a condition to march, including also capt. Bacon, and one other company which left us the morning following.

The beeves expected at Gen. Winchester's camp, did not arrive so as to enable us to draw, till the morning of the 5th: A good number of the men were destitute of provision the day you left Defiance. There being no flour to be issued to the mounted men, I ordered that eight days rations of beef should be drawn and immediately jerked, so as to lighten and prepare it for the expedition, intending to move off on the evening of the 5th. On examining our ammunition it had been found that during the excessive rains which fell, while you was marching us from St. Mary's to Defiance, it had become so damaged as to be entirely useless; not two rounds of sound cartridges were left to a man. I ordered returns made, so that each man should be furnished with 12 rounds. This return amounted to 4500 cartridges for the musket men, exclusive of major Roper's battalion: the ammunition of the

1. This letter is included here more to illustrate the general conditions than for any connection with Gen. Harrison. Walter K. Jordan lived in Morgan Co., Pa. He died at Fort Wayne. His family subsequently came to Jackson Co., Ind. Mrs. L. C. Mathers of Bloomington, Ind., who has the original of the letter, is a great-granddaughter. The letter as published in *Niles* is considerably mutilated in translation. Jordan was a sargeant under Rhea at Fort Wayne. The letter contains several errors of fact and has been severely criticised. The letters were perhaps dictated. The Niles letter may be the copy sent to "Hunter". Either this is the case or one similar is referred to by John Johnston in his letter of Oct. 23, below.

riflemen having received very little damage. Quarter-master Basey called on the quarter-master in Gen. Winchester's camp and returned without a supply. About 1 o'clock this day, a man belonging to [Capt. James] Manary's company of Rangers was killed and scalped across the Miami, within two hundred yards of our camp. I gave immediate orders to arms, and in five minutes to horse, but owing to our being compelled to confine our horses during the night, and graze them by day for want of forage; the greater part at this moment were under keepers nearly one mile from our camp up the Auglaise. conceiving from the bold manner in which the Indians had approached our camp, that it was possible a considerable body was not distant, I wished to form the men and proceed over the river, by which we should be in a situation to contend with a considerable force, or pursue to effect a small one. In the meantime I permitted major [Henry] Brush to cross over with about 50 foot, to examine the bank, and see in what direction the Indians had retired, but before he reached the opposite shore every horseman whose horse was in camp was mounted to follow over. It was in vain that I made an attempt to keep them back till they were formed; they broke off in numbers from 20 to 30, mostly without their officers, and crossed the woods, in every direction; a party of 15 fell on the trail of the Indians and at seven or eight miles distance overtook them; but as the Indians were superior to them, and formed, our men without waiting for a discharge from the enemy, returned to camp. Logan, and the other Indians in our camp, were of the opinion that there was a considerable force of the enemy lying down the river and offered to spy down. Early on the following morning they left our camp with instructions to proceed four miles below the Little Rapids, a distance of 14 miles. They returned at evening, having found no trail of any size, excepting the party which had been pursued and those they computed at about 40; that they had proceeded on towards the waters of Lake Michigan, and not on the direction to the Rapids. That the British and Indians which had fled before general Winchester, had retreated, with apparent precipitancy, driving their carriages over large logs, and tearing down every sapling that stood in their way.

Scarcely had this scout left our camp, when I received the following order from general Winchester:

CAMP NEAR DEFIANCE, October 6, 1812

SIR, Believing it to be essential, that the Indians who committed the murder yesterday near your camp should be pursued and routed, or their strength and situation ascertained, and as that duty can be best and most expeditiously done with mounted men, you will this morning pursue their trail with a part or the whole of your force, and dislodge, kill, and destroy them if in your power. This duty performed you can take the course directed by general Harrison. The attitude of the enemy requires this change in your destination, and, as commanding officer of the north-western army, I have deemed it my duty to make it; if you do not return to report, you will send an officer for that purpose.

J. WINCHESTER, *Brig-Gen. com. left wing N. W. Army.*

GENERAL TUPPER

I waited on general Winchester immediately on receipt of the foregoing order, informing him of having previously sent out a scout, and the object of it; that the Indians had the evening before been overtaken seven or eight miles from our camp; and their number computed at from 20 to 40. That in all probability they had then advanced too far to be overtaken without a long pursuit; that our horses were feeble, and that I wished to preserve as much of their strength as possible for the general object of the expedition; and that if it was agreeable to him we would wait the return of the scout, to take such measures as were deemed proper on their return. General Winchester made no objections to this arrangement; at the same time I informed him that we had not three rounds of ammunition to a man, and requested of him to order me a supply. He replied to me that he would order his ammunition examined, and would endeavor to furnish me a part of what was required to complete the 12 rounds. My brigade quarter-master attended this day and returned this evening with information that no ammunition could be had. Early the following morning I ordered the horses for a march and repaired to gen. Winchester's quarters and again requested a supply of two thousand cartridges, being about one third of the quantity required; without which I could not feel myself justifiable in proceeding on the expedition. In answer he stated to me, that he had but six thousand cartridges not issued; that his men had but very few in their boxes; that he had a good supply of powder and ball, but no paper; the latter was in the waggons and expected to arrive that or the day following—and then directed me to return to my camp and

make report of the actual quantity on hand, and he would then inform me whether he would deliver the two thousand cartridges. I hastened back to my camp, and gave the necessary orders for furnishing the return; but in a few minutes after, received from general Winchester the following order:

> General TUPPER—Longer delay consistent with strict military principles cannot be indulged; you will therefore proceed immediately on the reconnoitring duty ordered yesterday with the troops under your command, except col. [James] Simral's corps who shall return without delay to the settlement, to recruit their horses, agreeable to general Harrison's orders.
>
> J. WINCHESTER, *Brig. Gen.*

When Col. Simral's company moved off a large proportion of two companies of major Roper's battalion from Kentucky followed, which reduced that battalion, (being the whole force now remaining from Kentukcy) to less than eighty men. I was indebted to col. Simral for all the cartridges he had excepting two rounds; but as the most of them had been damaged and dried, they did not add one sound round to each man. I was on the point of taking up the line of march to execute general Winchester's orders, when col. [John] Allen, commanding a regiment of Kentucky troops in gen. Winchester's camp, came up, and informed me he had obtained leave to accompany me to the Rapids in any station I thought proper to place him, from a soldier upwards. I thankfully accepted his services and caused him to be announced as an aid. Col. Allen proposed, that as it was gen. Winchester's wish that the troops should move on the direct route to the Rapids, that none should be taken but such as would go freely. The experiment was made, when about 400 volunteered for the service; scarcely had the troops moved forward from the rank, when col. Allen beckoned me aside and shewed me an order which gen. Winchester had that moment forwarded to him, giving col. Allen the command of the men ordered for the Rapids. I requested of col. Allen a copy of this order, which he declined giving. It would be difficult for me to describe the state of my feelings at this moment. I turned to the troops which had refused to volunteer, and ordered them across the Auglaise on the route you directed me to take, as the best calculated to carry your orders into effect. When it was found that general Winchester, had superceeded me in the command, the whole force from Ohio, crossed the Auglaise

and refused to march as directed by gen. Winchester. Col. Allen and major [Henry] Brush returned to general Winchester who assured them he had mistook the object of col. Allen's request. General Winchester then proposed to divide the force and have a part to move on the direct route to the Rapids, the other to proceed by Tawa [Ottawa] towns, to unite at a certain time 12 miles above the Rapids. I was unwilling to consent to this measure; the force united was not half the number you thought necessary to order on the most secret route; a division of less than 500 men to meet in an enemy's country, where many circumstances might prevent their junction, was to me a measure I could only consent to by compulsion—this measure was in the end abandoned.

It is a duty I owe to col. Allen that I have not the smallest reason to believe he was privy to the order of general Winchester, giving to him the command: his character, and every part of his conduct on that occasion, convinces me he is above it.

The whole force proceeded to Tawa towns where we reached the day following. Early on the morning of the 9th I ordered the march for the Rapids, when at the distance of half a mile it was found our whole force was reduced to 200 men exclusive of officers; the other part of the force had refused to march, and remained in the encampment; scarcely a man marched from the second battalion of colonel Finley's regiment, commanded by major Taylor. Manary's company of U. S. Rangers, both officers and soldiers, refused to march.

When it was ascertained that our whole force for the Rapids was reduced to 200 men, I called a council of the officers to determine whether with that force it was advisable to proceed on to the Rapids.

The council considered that our force was not sufficient to carry the first object of your orders into effect; that we were too numerous to act as a spy party, and too weak to carry offensive operations into the enemy's country; and that it would be improper and unadvisable under those circumstances to continue the expedition.

With the then remaining force I proceeded to this place, [Urbana] where I directed col. Findley and major Roper to discharge such men only as had continued to do their duty.

Thus, sir, has terminated an expedition, at one time capable

of tearing the British flag from the Walls at Detroit, wherein our troops might have returned with the pleasing reflection of having rendered their country an essential service.

It is a duty, sir, I owe to the officers of the Kentucky forces, to col. Findley and officers of his first battalion, to say that they were zealous of pressing forward the expedition; while the officers of the second battalion, commanded by major Taylor, with few exceptions, were shrinking from their duty, and shamefully deserting the cause of their country.

The detaching of col. Simral's regiment from our force stands prominent among the causes of our failure; already was there a panic in some parts of our camp; the enemy that had retired at general Winchester's approach had been greatly magnified. The day succeeding the alarm general Winchester drew in one wing of his lines and strengthened his camp with a breast-work—even this circumstance was noticed, and urged as an evidence, that he apprehended a force superior to his own. Thus when imaginary obstacles, unite with those that are real to oppose the movement of a force so insubordinate, as that every man's will is his law, little can be expected to the officers, but a plentiful harvest of mortification and disgrace.

It cannot be denied that at the time those men refused to march, that there was a scarcity of provision in the camp, not three days rations of meat to each officer and soldier remained; and no bread or flour. But we had found at those towns, an abundant supply of good sound corn, together with nearly 30 bushels cured when green, or *tossamonona.* Our sufferings with this supply could not have been great in going or returning from the Rapids.

The man whose courage and patriotism expires when his rations are reduced, ought never to place himself between his country and its enemies.

When you shall have examined and considered the whole causes of our failure, should doubts rest on your mind whether some part of it does not attach to my conduct, may I not hope, sir, that you may order a court of enquiry, that I may have an opportunity of meeting an investigation.

I have the honor to be, &c.

EDW. W. TUPPER. *Brig. Gen.*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

HEAD QUARTERS FRANKLINTON (Ohio)
13th. Oct. 1812
Har. Pa. 711-719

SIR:

My last letters to you were from Piqua on the 27th and St. Marys on the 29th ultimo. [See above] I have been so constantly in motion since that I have been unable to write. On the 30th ultimo I was at St. Marys waiting the arrival of some companies of mounted Volunteers to make up with those which I had with me 15 or 1800 men and which under the command of Brigd. Genl. [Edward] Tupper of this State I intended to have sent on the expedition mentioned in my letter of the 27th ult. On that day however (the 30th.) I received information by two Officers who were sent from Genl. Winchester that in his march from Fort Wayne to Defiance he had been greatly impeded by a considerable body of Indians who were frequently engaged with his advanced guard and that upon his arrival near Defiance he had discovered that the Indians were attended by Brittish troops who had with them some pieces of Artillery. Within a few minutes after the arrival of these gentlemen I received by an Express sent by Gov. Meigs a letter from Genl. Kelso commanding a Detachment of Pennsylvania troops on Lake Erie informing me that on the 16th of Sept. 2000 Indians with a detachment of British regulars and Militia had set out from Malden with 2 Pieces of Artillery for the purpose of attacking Fort Wayne.[1] Having no doubt that this was the force which was in front of Genl. Winchester, I immediately ordered the two Regmts. of Infantry which were with me and the whole of the mounted men amounting to above 1000 to divest themselves of all their baggage and prepare to go in pursuit of the enemy. We marched six miles that Evening and on the following day I left the Infantry pushed on as rapidly as possible and reached Defiance on the evening of the 2nd day, where I found Genl.

1. Following is the note:

Pittsburgh 28 Sept. 1812

Sir: News have reached us that 200 English and a large body of Indians left Detroit very recently to attack Fort Wayne, and Fort Harrison on the Wabash—and that Malden is almost destitute of troops.

AMOS STODDARD
Maj.

Gen. WADSWORTH

West. Res. Hist. Soc. Tract 92 p. 71

Winchester encamped and had the mortification to learn that the enemy had passed that place at least 3 or 4 days before. Genl. Winchester met with the Indians the day after his departure from Fort Wayne but he was not able to ascertain their number or their position. When he arrived within a few miles of Defiance he found the tracks of the enemies carriages on the south side of the Miami both going & returning and upon further examination it was discovered that they had not advanced more than 8 or 10 miles above Defiance. Genl. Winchester kept his troops so well prepared to receive the enemy that they did not dare to attack him. In the course of the march he lost an Ensign and 6 men killed and one wounded. As my presence was absolutely necessary in the rear to make arrangements for sending on the supplies for the Army I left Defiance on the 4th inst. having previously directed Genl. Winchester to build a small fort at that place, and Genl. Tupper to proceed with the mounted men to the Rapids and if he should think proper (from the information he should there receive) as far as the River Resin. On my way to St. Marys I met an express from Fort Wayne informing me that the Indians were again collecting round that place and that it had been thought advisable that a troop of Dragoons (armed with Muskets) which I had sent to bring off a six pounder left there by Genl. Winchester should not proceed with it until they were reinforced. At St. Marys I found about 500 mounted rifle men who had come on to join the expedition towards Detroit. These were dispatched under a Col. [Allen] Trimble to Fort Wayne and with directions to proceed on and endeavour to surprise the Potawatamie Town called White Pigeons Town about 65 miles from Fort Wayne. I sent also a Battalion of Ohio Infantry to Fort Wayne with a supply of provisions and for the purpose of collecting for the garrison a quantity of fuel which they are unable to get from the distance they have to haul it whenever there are parties of Indians round them. Before I left St. Marys for Defiance some Miamis had arrived (via Fort Wayne) with a flag and a Message from their Cheifs begging for peace. [See Oct. 11, above] I had then not time to listen to their speech and upon my return I found the Owl, Charley (the Eel River Chief) the Turtles son and several others had joined them. They came prepared to palliate or deny the hostility of their

tribe as the one or the other might best suit their purpose, but finding that I was in possession of facts which unequivocally proved it they threw themselves upon the mercy of the President and have agreed to abide by his decision be it what it may. I have named five Chiefs as hostages whom they are to send in to Piqua there to be kept in Custody until the decision of the President is made. The facts which we can prove upon them are the assistance given by Chappim one of their principal war Chiefs in the siege of Fort Wayne. One of these Warriors participating in the murders committed in Clark County, Indianna, [Pigeon Roost] and a scalp exhibited (taken by him) in the town of Mississinaway, a Declaration made to the Delawares of their having taken up the tomhawk against the U. States and I may add their refusal to attend the council at Piqua altho they were informed that their not attending it would be considered as evidence of their having withdrawn from the protection of the U. States. There is great reason to believe that the Weas assisted in the late attack upon fort Harrison and Mr. [John] Johnson thinks his brother was killed by a miami.[2] I have no doubt that some of the Chiefs have done everything in their power to prevent the young men from going to war with us, and as little that the great bulk of the tribe were decidedly hostile. The revolution in their affairs and in their dispostion towards us was very sudden. The Declaration of hostility to us which I have spoken of above that was made to the Delawares was followed in two days by a message entreating the mediation of the Delawares in their favor. In the intermediate time our Army had appeared at Fort Wayne their Villages and provision destroyed and their utter extirpation threatened. You are so well acquainted Sir with all the circumstances connected with the situation of this tribe, that it would be presumption in me to indicate my opinion of the course to be pursued toward them. I will merely observe they can do us considerable injury if they are driven off and unite with the hostile bands which are collecting towards the southern extremity of Lake Michigan.

From the Miamis I learn that the Prophet has abandoned his position upon the Wabash and had taken one near the

2. Steven Johnson was a clerk in the agency under Stickney. He was killed trying to get through the Indian lines to Piqua. John Johnson accused White Raccoon of the murder.
Griswold, *Fort Wayne*, 202

head of the Tippaccano River and that the Winebagoes had deserted him and returned home disgusted, I suppose, with their late want of success in the attack upon Fort Harrison. Having made every arrangement in my power for forwarding the supplies for the Army to Defiance and committed the command of that wing to Genl. Winchester who agreed to serve under me without the least hesitation I left St. Marys for the purpose of making similar arrangements for the Right Wing. The accumulation of provisions upon the Auglase Route is quite equal to my expectations. There are at St. Marys and advanced of that place about 250,000. Rations of flour whiskey and small parts purchased by the Commissaries and Mr. [William] Piatt[3] is actively & successfully employed in increasing the quantity to 500,000. There are two Regmts stationed on the Auglase thirty six miles above Fort Defiance employed in building two block houses and ten batteau for the purpose of conveying supplies to the Rapids if there should be a rise of Water which often happens in the fall.

Upon the Urbana Route little has been done towards the accumulation of provisions excepting Meat Kind which can be procured of Cattle or Hogs to any extent. The Ohio Troops have marched from Urbana to Minarys Blockhouse [in Logan Co.] 20 miles in advance and will be employed in repairing the road to McArthers block house [in Hardin Co. at the crossing of the Scioto] 40 miles from Urbana where I have directed 200,000 Rations to be deposited by the Contractor White and the same quantity by the Commissary. Further information upon the subject has however convinced me that my first opinion as to the propriety of adopting the Sandusky route as that which ought principally to be relied on for the conveyance of our supplies was correct. But I was misinformed as to the eligibility of Wooster as a place of deposit and the Rendezvous of the right wing. It should have been Mansfield; indeed that place is not far enough West to serve as a deposit of the supplies procured on the Sciota nor for the junction of the two Corps from Pennsylvania & Virginia, the former with all the Artillery & supplies from Pittsburgh will still pursue the route by Canton & Wooster to Mansfield and I have sent an express to conduct the latter through Chilicothe, this place and Worthington to Delaware from which last a road is now

3. William Piatt was in the quartermaster department and John Piatt was a contractor. It is often impossible to determine to which Harrison refers.

cutting by a detachment of the Ohio Militia to the Upper Sandusky where I have directed Block Houses to be built for a principal deposit.

I have directed Major [Ebenezer] Denny to forward by the Canton and Wooster route 400,000 complete Rations but I do not think that any further quantity need be sent from that place of any article composing the Ration unless it is whiskey. All the information I receive corroborates the opinion I have given that every thing else can be procured here cheaper than it can be brought from Pittsburgh. My only fears on the score of provisions arrise from the difficulty of getting it transported from the frontiers of the settlement. My experience in the Campaigns of Genl. Wayne and the opinion of men conversant in such matters have determined me to procure Ox teams. They can live on the food which the forests will furnish for some time if well salted whilst our horse teams require a constant supply of grain. I have therefore directed Col. [James] Morrison to purchase One hundred Ox waggons and teams for the Sandusky route being convinced that purchasing will in the end prove more economical than hiring. Col. [Thomas] Buford is also ordered on here for the purpose of procuring provisions. I am much relieved by the information given in Yr. letter of the 26th. Ultimo [see above] of the number of shoes & blankets destined for this army which have been sent on, great exertions are making in Kentucky to procure other articles of clothing, socks & mittens will be obtained in sufficient numbers and it is probable a considerable number of overals & Jackets will also be procured. Without these I shall never be able to get the army to Detroit. With a thoughtlessness which can hardly be accounted for many of the Volunteers have left home clad entirely in linen and cotton.

I am fully sensible of the responsibility vested in me by your letter of the 23d. [22] Ultimo. [See above] I accept it with full confidence of being able to effect the wishes of the president or to show unequivocally their impracticability. If the fall should be very dry I will retake Detroit before the winter sets in but if we should have much rain it will be necessary to wait at the Rapids until the Margin of the Lake becomes frozen sufficiently to bear the Army and its baggage. A simultaneous movement with the army below will be highly

useful as the enemy will be able for some time to come to transfer their force from one end of the lake to the other by water. I have written to Genl. Vanranssalear and shall continue to keep him informed of my movements and prospects. I am indeed highly pleased with the appointment of Col. [James] Morrison I know of no man who could discharge with so much propriety as himself the duties of Quarter Master Genl. to an Army. The Col. has applied to me to appoint a deputy to him under the Act establishing the Quarter Master Genls. Department. The Colo. cannot get a proper person to assist him for the compensation allowed for the assistant deputy Quarter Master by the law under which his own appointment is made. Will it be proper to appoint a Depy. Quarter Master under the 1st. Section of the act of the 28th. of March?. Genl. Winchester agreed to continue under my command without the least hesitation. That circumstance has given me great pleasure. But I am at a loss in what light to consider myself. If as a Brigar., Genl. Winchester's prior commission will entitle him to the command. My commission from Kentucky has not been abrogated, would it be improper to continue to act under it and at the time that I am a Brigdr. in the service of the U. States? however the government may decide, I shall be content. In a former letter I requested that a detachment of the Artillery Corps should be sent to me. In an army composed almost exclusively of Militia and operated in a country where rivers are to be crossed in the presence of highly disciplined troops and Forts to be taken, it is all important that the Corps of Artillery should be respectable for its numbers and knowledge of its duty. I beg leave also to recommend that an other officer of Engineers should be sent on. A fit of sickness or an accident depriving us of the services of Capt. [Charles] Gratiot might put a stop to our operations.

I have the honor to be very Respectfully

Yr. Hbl. Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble WM. EUSTIS Esq. *Secy of War*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No 16,)

HEAD QUARTERS FRANKLINTON 15th Oct. 1812

Har. Pa. 720-722

SIR:

I am sorry to inform you that the expedition which I directed of mounted men toward the Rapids of Miami did not succeed. The greater part of the men having as I understand refused to march under Genl. [Edward] Tupper after I left them. I have received no written account but what is contained in the enclosed note from Govr. Meigs. [see Oct. 11, above] I cannot conceive how Genl. Winchester can be to blame on this occasion and I am fully persuaded that it will be found to attach elswhere. I have lately seen an article in the St. Louis paper complaining bitterly of the want of troops in that quarter. If they are wanted it is the fault of the Governors. so early as the 7th ultimo I wrote to the governor of Tennessee and requested him to furnish any number of men that Gov. Howard [Mo.] or Govr. Edwards [Ill.] should call for and to prevent delay I requested him to hold two Regts. in readiness to march as soon as he should receive a requisition. Both the Governors were informed of this arrangement. A Regt. from the lower part of Kentucky was in the first instance ordered to Cahokia from Henderson but their march was very improperly diverted to Vincennes by Genl. [John] Gibson. I have now forwarded orders for it to proceed to its first destination without delay. I am still of opinion that the Volunteers in the N. W. army from Kentucky are equal to any that have ever turned out in U. States but I am not without fears that the hardships & difficulties of a winters campaign may shake their firmness & evaporate much of their zeal. It is therefore an object of much importance to collect a body of men who can be depended upon under any circumstances. I have accordingly ordered all the recruits in Kenty. Ohio and Tennessee to be organized and brought on. Lt. Col. [John B.] Campbell[1] will command those from this State & I have given to Col. [James M.] Anderson the option of commanding those from Tennessee or sending an other field officer. For the mere purpose of guarding the frontiers,

1. John B. Campbell was a native of Va. His father was a colonel at King's Mt. He joined the army as Lieut. Col. in 1812, made a colonel after the Mississinewa expedition and killed in the battle of Chippewa July 5, 1813.

Militia will answer as well perhaps better than Regulars. Conformably to the authority given in your letter of the 17th Ultimo I have appointed Capt. Nathl. G. T. Hart[2] of the 5th Regt. of Kentucky Volunteers, Deputy Inspector. I am aware that the law directs that this officer shall be taken from "The line" but I could not think that it was intended that in an Army composed almost exclusively of Militia & Volunteers the Staff appointments should be all taken from the line of Regular troops. If I have been mistaken however in my construction of the law it can still be corrected. Captn. Hart is as well qualified as any other officer amongst the Volunteers, a warm advocate of the present administration the brother in law of Mr. H. Clay and nearly connected with Gov. Scott. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 7th inst. [see above] This letter is the 16th which I have written to you since my first arrival at Cincinnati in July. It so numbered—as each succeeding one will be with progressive numbers. I sometimes receive you letters in inverted Order I shall therefore be thankful to have the same course pursued with regard to them. It will at any rate, save trouble and enable me to know when a letter comes to hand whether all those which were previously written have been received. It was a plan used by the Secy. of War and Genl. Wayne and in one instance that I recollect was productive of particular advantage.

I expect the Virginia Brigade will arrive in Chilicothe the day after tomorrow. Major [Ebenezer] Denny had directed 500 barrels of flour to be purchased in this Country in part of the 400,000 Rations ordered by me. I have directed him to forward 400,000 Rations of flour exclusively of these 500 barrels and to send whiskey and small parts to the amount of 800,000, Cattle & Hogs can certainly be procured here in abundance and of course none need be sent from Pittsburgh.

With great Respect I have the honor to be
Yr. Hbl. Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

I break open the cover which contains this to enclose a copy

2. Capt. Nathaniel G. T. Hart was born in Hagerstown, Md., and came as a boy with his father, Col. Thomas Hart, to Lexington. His sister married James Brown, long a minister to France, and Henry Clay. Capt. Hart read law with Clay but engaged in business. He was wealthy when the war broke out. He was killed at the Raisin, Jan. 22, 1813, among the wounded prisoners.

Collins, *Kentucky*, 345

of a letter this moment received from Mr. Stickney—[see Oct 11, above] The information it conveys is most wonderful.

W. H. H.

Honble Secy. of War

JOHN H. PIATT TO HARRISON

ST MARYS Oct. 17th 1812

Har. Pa. 725, 726

SIR

The intelligence (contained in Mr. [George] Wallace's letter herewith enclosed from Fort Jennings) of the failure of the Contractor to furnish the necessarys at that post in consequence of which they are consuming the provisions & I have forwarded to fort Defiance is of such importance at the present crisis that I have thought it advisable to communicate the circumstances to Your Excy. by Express and should be glad to receive your possitive instructions on the subject. The roads are getting so extremely bad that with all my exertions I have only been able to forward the following articles directed to Defiance, Viz. 334 head of beef cattle 528 barrels of flour 57 barrels whiskey 48 barrels of salt 22 boxes of soap 18 boxes of candles and 36 bags of bread which was carried by 78 Waggons and 161 packhorses. You will observe from Mr. Wallace's letter that the Commandent at fort Jennings has taken a considerable quantity of the above articles for the use of that post. Under these circumstances I take the liberty of suggesting to your Excellency the propriety of ordering [Robert] Poague's Regt. now at that place to return to this post and to keep a part of them employed in repairing the Roads from Piqua to this place as I am informed there is not more tools at fort Jennings for building boats than will serve to keep [William] Jennings Regmt. employed and if Poague was here he might aid in the different works that are necessary for the safety of the provisions sent from here to forts Wayne and Defiance and they would be supplied here much easier than at fort Jennings.

I certify this to be a true extract

W. S. HUNTER, *A. D. C.*

His Excellency Genl. HARRISON.

WADSWORTH TO HARRISON

HURON Oct. 20th, 1812

Har. Pa. 733

His Excellency WM. HENRY HARRISSON.

I was somewhat surprised at a passage in your letter (viz) "I left Govn. Meigs yesterday at Urbana & I think he told me that he had given order for some part of your command to open the road in the direction of the Miami Rapids by the Upper Sandusky". You will see by this letter that my detachment is not completely organized. I have given order for the whole to march to this place without delay, which I expect will be complied with, all the Munitions of war I have ordered to this place and expect them on in a short time, you will readily see should my orders be countermanded my detachment will not be completed so as to answer the expectations of the Secretary at War. I believe he must have had some greater object in view for it then to open road by contract. I am in possession of the copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury to Govn. Meigs requesting him to open the above contemplated road by contract or otherwise and an appropriation had been made for that purpose of $5500. I feel confident that your Excellency will not approve of any such orders, yet will be sensible it will overturn all discipline in the army. [Extract]

ELIJAH WADSWORTH[1]

Truly Copied Geo. Trotter Jun.

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No 17)

HEAD QUARTERS FRANKLINTON October 22 1812

Har. Pa. 727-730

SIR

Every exertion has been made since I last wrote to you to procure and forward the supplies for the Army to the advanced posts. Very little however has been purchased for the Commissary's department in this quarters as Major [Ebenezer] Denny had engaged every manufacturing Mill from the Scioto to Pittsburgh having dispatched an agent for

1. Elijah Wadsworth was born at Hartford, Conn., November 4, 1747. Served through the Revolution. Located at Canfield, O., in 1802. Died Dec. 30, 1817.
Lossing, *War of 1812, 340*

that purpose as soon as he received your first order for the One Million & ninety eight thousand rations. Under these circumstances, I thought it advisable to suffer him to go on to procure the whole quantity which you had ordered and have instructed him accordingly.

I have not heard from the Virginia troops since they left the Ohio but have heard from pretty good authority that they were to march on Sunday last. I set out this morning for Mansfield where I expect to meet the Brigade from Pennsylvania and the greater part of the artillery. Governor Meigs informs me that there are no artilerists in Genl. [Elijah] Wadsworth division, who have any practical knowledge of their duty. One or two Companies have been formed but they never had a field piece until a few weeks ago. I regret exceedingly that a Detachment from one of the Regular Regiments cannot be spared for this Army. A report has prevailed in this country that a number of Indians and British Troops had been landed at Sandusky eight or ten days ago. I learn that it has been the cause of Genl. Wadsworths advancing from the Portage to the Huron River with all his force. I am persuaded however that the report is entirely unfounded. I am not able to fix any period for the advance of the Troops to Detroit. It is pretty evident that it cannot be done upon proper principles until the frost shall become so severe as to enable us to use the River and the Margin of the Lake for the transportation of the bagage & provisions upon the ice. To get them forward through a Swampy Wilderness of nearly two hundred miles in Waggons or on Pack-horses which are to carry their own Provender is absolutely impossible. The enclosed Extract of a Letter [see Oct. 17 above] just received from the Commissary [John H.] Piatt will give you some idea of the state of the road and of the difficulty of getting provisions even to Defiance. But I have no doubt but that the object of reaching Detroit can be accomplished by using the Margin of the Lake as above mentioned, if the Troops are provided with warm Clothing and the Winter such as they commonly are in this climate. It is certain however that no species of supplies are to be calculated upon being found in the Michigan Territory. The farms upon the river Raisin which might have afforded a quantity of forage are nearly all broken up & the grain destroyed. This article then

as well as the provisions for the men is to be taken from this State—a circumstance which must at once put to rest every idea for a land conveyance at this season. Since it would require at least two Waggons with forage for each one that is loaded with provisions and other articles. I am informed that from Eight to ten thousand bushels of corn may be obtained at Cleveland and a few thousand from the Country between that place & Sandusky. My present plan is to occupy Sandusky & to accumulate as much provision & forage as possible at that place to be taken upon Sleds from thence to the river Raisin. At Defiance, Fort Jennings & St. Mary's boats & sleds are preparing to take advantage of a rise of water or a fall of Snow. General [Edward] Tupper with one thousand Ohio militia is advancing to McArthur's Block-house forty four miles from Urbana upon Hull's trace to cover the provisions which the Commissary is depositing there and which by the middle of November will amount to two hundred thousand rations. He has also directed to prepare sleds for taking it forward. It has been my object to keep as many of the troops within the 41st degree to save the provisions purchased by the Commissary which are intended for the use of the troops when they shall advance. But notwithstanding my urgent demand the Contractors have done little or nothing towards the Deposits which I have required to be made at McArthurs & Jenning's Blockhouse (upon the Auglaise) and at the latter place the two Regiments there are subsisting upon the Commissary's Stores. Major White has let out his contract for the North Western part of the State at so low a rate that the Sub-Contractors are unable to furnish the supplies and one at least of them is as great a scoundrel as the World can produce, indeed, I am very far from being satisfied with Major White himself. He will it is said, make One hundred thousand Dollars by the contract for this state and I am very well persuaded that he had rather see the Army starve than that his profits should be lessened five Hundred Dollars. He merits no indulgence from the Government and he has certainly forfeited the penalty of his bond.

The Troops at Fort Defiance might advance to the Miami Rapids in a few days. I do not believe however that any great advantage would arise from it until the other Columns are ready to support them and it would be productive of the

certain disadvantage of consuming provisions forwarded with immense labor & expense without essentially contributing to the main design. I know of no arrangement which could be better calculated to protect the frontiers and support each other than that which the several Corps of the Army at present form. Depredations by small parties of Indians may and will be made but it is impossible that any considerable body can advance against the settlements without being in great danger of being intercepted in their retreat. I am persuaded that the Indians have done less mischief upon the frontiers since the Declaration of War than they did for the same length of time preceding it.

It was suggested to me a few days ago by a member of Congress that the possession of Detroit by the Enemy would probably be the most effectual bar to the Attainment of peace. If this is really the case I would undertake to recover it with a Detachment of the Army at any time. A few hundred Packhorses with a drove of beeves (without artillery & heavy baggage) would subsist the fifteen hundred or two thousand men which I would select for the purpose, until the balance of the Army could arrive. But having in view offensive operations from Detroit an advance of this sort would be premature & ultimately disadvantageous. I have the honor to enclose you Genl. Tupper's report to me which himself or his friends have very improperly caused to be printed in a hand bill. [see Oct. 12, above]

Since I began to write this letter I have received information that the Troops from Pittsburgh had not set out from thence on Sunday last and of course that they cannot be expected at Mansfield for our or five days yet. I shall therefore remain here which is much more convenient for Super-intending the supplies than any place further in advance until Monday or Tuesday next. I have recd. no certain information of the Virginia Brigade's crossing the Ohio. Capt. [Nathaniel F.] Adams is now at Cincinnati, as soon as he arrives a return of all the troops shall be forwarded.

I have the honor to be with great respect

Yr Hble Serv

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble WM. EUSTIS Esq. *Secretary of War*

JOHN JOHNSTON TO HARRISON

(Copy)

PIQUA October 23. 1812

Har. Pa. 734-736

SIR:

I have the honor to acknowledge the rect. of your Excellency's letter of the 21st inst. You may depend upon my furnishing the Shawanoese. They will I suppose meet you at upper Sandusky. Logan will be here this night or in the morning and shall make him Chief of the party. Shall write you by him the conditions &c. In consequence of the Delaware's not coming this way for protection and knowing as I do that there is a number of unprincipled Lawless scoundrels among them. I directed John Conner to proceed to White River to watch their movements and keep them straight, to collect news and convey it here by every opportunity. I am sending out William Conner [brother of John] tomorrow morning to conduct some Delawares past Greenville & return here. I shall afterwards direct him to repair to you immediately. I believe he will answer your purposes better than his brother. I have always thought him the better man of the two, I am glad you have ordered [James] Manary's[1] Rangers to Loramie's as they have heretofore done us no good. If they were divided into two squads one to be placed at Greenville and the other to remain at Loramie's and directed to range the intermediate country it would more effectually cover the frontiers, unless they are specially & pointedly ordered to do their duty we shall derive no benefit from their services. The Indians are hovering about and only want an opportunity to strike. Their signs continue to be seen in this neighbourhood. We cannot doubt the information respecting the Miamis, it was derived from John Conner, the Shawanoese & the Delawares. I consider it fortunate that Mr. Conner did not proceed farther than Massassineway, thereby leaving Genl. [Samuel] Hopkins at liberty to proceed up the Wabash. The Potawatamies continue to pass Massassineway with droves of stolen horses. They told Richardville that they wanted the horses to enable them to move out of the reach of the long knives. I hope they will be as good as their word. I should be content to spare them a few horses myself on condition of getting rid of such

1. James Manany or Manary was captain of the first company of Ohio rangers.

neighbours. There are several indications that the Prophet will leave the Wabash and seek a home farther West. The Kickapoos who attended the U. S. Commissioners here succeeded in drawing off and sending home the greater part of the Prophet's force. All accounts agree in representing the Indians of the Wabash and the Illinois in the utmost confusion and distress.

One of the soldiers taken at Chicago has made his escape from the Potawatamies and came into Fort Wayne. He confirms the account of Capt. [Nathan] Heald and his wife with about seventeen more having been taken alive and divided in the usual manner among the Indians. Heald and lady was allotted to one family and was taken to some place near Green Bay. Immediately after the surrender of our people the Indians set fire to the Fort. I am afraid we shall not again see poor Heald and wife or any of the party as the soldier who escaped states that he was to be burn't the day after he ran away—his escape was miraculous—it is too long a story to be put on paper. [See Oct. 12, above]

With my best compliments to the Gentlemen of your family I have the honor to remain with very great respect

Yr. Ob. Hb Servt

JNO. JOHNSTON

His Excellency W. H. HARRISON
Commander in Chief of the Army
Franklinton, Ohio

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT October 23d, 1812

Har. Pa. 35, 36

SIR:

Your letter of the 13th Instant is received. [see above] The disposition of the several Indian Tribes will be known by you and you will treat them as their conduct and the public interest may require. In cases where you shall be satisfied of their good faith and that it is proper to extend to them the protection of the Government, it is the pleasure of the President, that they be sent for safety to such places and provided for as you may think proper.

Br. General, WM. H. HARRISON

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

No 12

WAR DEPARTMENT October 24th 1812

Har. Pa. 37

SIR:

Your letters of the 13th and 15th Instant have been received. [see above] This is the twelfth letter to you from this Department since the 22d of August. All communications to you in the future will be numbered.

Previous to receiving your last, orders had been given to Colonel [James M.] Anderson to proceed with the Recruits of his Regiment and [Joseph] Philips' Company of the 2nd regiment of artillery to the neighborhood of St. Louis. You cannot therefore calculate on any of those Recruits.

Herewith inclosed you will receive Copies of Orders from this Department on the Governor of Tennessee.

On entering the Territory of Upper Canada with the army under your command, I am instructed by the President to direct that you do not pledge the Government to the Inhabitants beyond a protection in their persons, property and rights.

Br. General WM. H. HARRISON

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No 18)

HEAD QUARTERS FRANKLINTON 26th October 1812

Har. Pa. 737-740

SIR:

Brigd Genls. [Simon] Perkins[1] and [Reasin] Beall[2] of the detachment under the Command of Genl. [Elijah] Wadsworth arrived here late last evening. I learn from them that the directions given by Gov. Meigs for opening the road from a point near Mansfield to lower Sandusky have not been executed. [see Oct. 20, above]

1. Simon Perkins was born at Norwich, Conn., Sept. 17, 1771; removed to Oswego, N. Y., 1795; went to Ohio 1798 and settled at Warren. He was a land speculator and later a banker. He served with honor in the War of 1812 till Feb. 28, 1813, when he retired. He died at Warren, Nov. 19, 1844.

Lossing, *War of 1812, 339*
Howe, *Hist. Col. Ohio, III, 360*

2. Reazin Beall served under Harmar and was an ensign under Wayne till 1794 when he resigned. He was a brigadier of militia from Ohio for a short time in 1812. He was born in Montgomery Co., Md., Dec. 3, 1769. His home was at Wooster, where he was register of the land office; in Congress 1813-14. Died at Wooster Feb. 20, 1843.

Howe, *Hist. Col. Ohio, III, 536*

Genl. Beall was in the execution of this order and was stopped by Genl. Wadsworth the order was reiterated by the Gov. and again countermanded by Genl. Wadsworth. His singular motives for doing this are explained in the enclosed extract of his letter to me received last evening. I have repeatedly been informed that the road which was laid out in July last from Sandusky to the Miami Rapids would prove a very good one when properly opened. I now find from Gen. Beall who was one of the Commissioners that it will not be passable for waggons after the autumn rains unless it is causewayed for 13 miles. This intelligence is extremely embarrassing and leaves me only a choice of difficulties. There can however be no doubt that the swamp may easily be passed after it becomes frozen, but this cannot be calculated upon as Genl. Perkins informs me before the first of January. There is however he thinks a possibility of using the beach of the Lake from Sandusky to the Miami bay. It is so important that I should correctly understand everything that relates to the Sandusky route that I have determined to proceed thither immediately. I have the honor to enclose you a letter from Major Genl. [Samuel] Hopkins [see Oct. 6, above] explaining his situation and prospects. I also enclose a letter from Mr. Johnston [see Oct. 23, above] containing a similar account of the conduct of the Miami's with that formerly forwarded by Mr. Stickney. I believe that the majority of the Chiefs are desirous of remaining neutral and two or three of them are no doubt our friends but the hostile disposition of the greater part of the tribes cannot be doubted. Their declining to send in hostages after having positively engaged to do it has been occasioned by their being relieved from the fears of Genl Hopkin's Army, which they informed William Conner had returned from Fort Harrison. It remains for the President to say what shall be done with the Miamis. I should be pleased to save a few of the Chiefs, but the base ingratitude with which the greater part of the tribe have conducted themselves towards us merits in my opinion the severest chastisement. And in my opinion every motive of justice and policy demands its infliction.

The Honble Mr. McKee[3] (and I believe also Richd M. John-

3. Whether this refers to the British partisan Alexander McKee (in derision), to John McKee, agent for the Choctaws, or to Samuel McKee, congressman from Ky., is not clear, but most probably to the latter, who was with Harrison in Ohio.

son) were present at my agreement with the Miami Chiefs upon the subject of the Hostages. Col. Johnson will also inform you that the proofs of their hostility were so decided that a council of War at Fort Wayne unanimously advised that they should be considered as enemies. The gentleman who recorded the proceedings of the Council has never put them in my hands and he is at present with the left wing of the Army. Nothing can be more easy than to surprise the Miami Town of Mississinaway with mounted men. I have engaged Genl. [Duncan] McArthur[4] to undertake it, if it is not considered as a violation of his parole. Indeed the force for the expedition would principally be composed of those who served in Genl. Hulls Army, if they are allowed to undertake it. It must be observed that the Miamis have never joined the British and their hostility has been confined to our own Territory. I am sorry to inform you of the failure of an other Expedition of Ohio Mounted Men. Col. [Allen] Trimble who as I informed you [see Oct. 13, above] was sent to surprise the White Pigeons Town on the head waters of the St. Josephs of the lakes, was abandoned at Fort Wayne by nearly half of his command, and was prevented from accomplishing his object with the ballance by the treachery of one guide and the cowardice of an other. He destroyed however two small villages and would have killed or taken the inhabitants if they had not been intentionally alarmed by one of the guides. I have not yet received Col. Trimble's official report. The determination of the President with respect to the Miamis will I hope meet me at Upper Sandusky on my return from the Lake. The conduct of Manary's Company of Rangers has been such as to destroy all confidence in it. I would have arrested him and his officers if I were not in hopes that the President would direct the whole company to be disbanded. There could certainly be Companies raised of that description that would be eminently useful but to be so the officers must be selected in a different manner from what they have been. Both the Companies raised in this State and that

4. Duncan McArthur was a Scotchman born in Dutchess Co., N. Y., June 14, 1772; later moved to Pa. He served in Harmar's campaign; surveyor under Gen. Nathaniel Massie; served in the legislature, Major Gen. of Militia; surrendered with Hull at Detroit; elected to Congress 1812; resigned and became a brigadier gen. in army. Took Harrison's place when latter resigned; 1822 elected to congress; 1830 elected governor. Died in Chillicothe, Apr. 28, 1839.

Howe, *Hist. Col. Ohio III, 179*

in Kentucky are entirely worthless because the officers are deficient in every quality which is necessary for their stations. [William] Perry[5] is a fool a coward and a drunkard. [James] Manary[6] a poor old imbecile creature, and Gov. Scott assured me that his Captain was as bad a one as could have been selected. The Companies have been uniformly recruited amongst their friends and neighbors and it is the principal object of the officers to screen them from duty. Amongst the Volunteers there are Officers of tried merit and with a little attention men might be procured of the like character.

Genl. [Elijah] Wadsworth's whole command amounts to about 1000 men. He is himself a Major General and he has two Brigadiers in service also. The old gentleman is I believe full of zeal, but his age and infirmities render him unequal to the fatigues of a winter's Campaign. I believe he thinks himself called into service by you, but I am persuaded that he has misunderstood your intentions

I have the Honor to be with great Respect

Tr yr Humb Sevt.

WILLM HENRY HARRISON

The Honble WILL'M EUSTIS Esq *Secy of War*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO GENERAL HULL

WAR DEPARTMENT October 26th, 1812

Har. Pa. 38

SIR:

Your letter dated Newton Mass. Oct. 19th, 1812 was received by the Mail of Yesterday, and I am instructed by the President to inform you that as soon as the state of the public Service will permit, a Court Martial will be convened to investigate your conduct in surrendering to the Enemy the Army and the post of Detroit under your command on August last.

The time and place at which the Court will assemble and a copy of the charges on which you will be tried will be season-

5. William Perry was captain of the second company of Ohio rangers.

6. James Manary Sen. was appointed a captain of the Rangers, Aug. 5, 1813. James Manary had been appointed captain Jan. 7, 1812. On July 2, 1812, the president appointed James Manary 1st Lt. in the First Co. The spelling "Manany" in the *Executive Journal* is evidently an error. Heitman's *Register* gives James Manary Jr. 1st Lt. rangers July 6, 1812, till June 15, 1815, and James Manary, capt. rangers, Aug. 5, 1813, to June 15, 1815.

ably transmitted to you, together with the names of the Officers who may be ordered to compose the Court.[1]

Br. General WM. HULL

SHELBY TO HARRISON

FRANKFORT, KY., Nov. 1st, 1812

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book A" page 31

DEAR SIR:—I am favored by the opportunity of Maj. [Robert] Logan, your Aid-de-camp, to drop you a few lines in haste.

It gives me pain to be the messenger of bad news—such I consider the failure of Genl. Hopkins' expedition against Peoria and the Kickapoo Towns on Illinois river. This news is just announced by Capt. [Anthony] Crockett,[1] immediately from Fort Harrison, who reports that about the 14th ulto. the General set out from that place with about 2,000 mounted men, provisioned for ten days, against the Kickapoo Towns and Peoria on Illinois; that they marched first northwest a day or two and then nearly north, in all between five and six days, at or near 30 miles per day, when their provisions were nearly exhausted, and their guides entirely bewildered and lost, not knowing which way to steer, the army discouraged and disheartened by their situation, all turned back and with much difficulty and distress, retraced their forward march, and got back to Fort Harrison, the Indians having fired the praires in their rear, burnt all the grass, and their horses almost perished and themselves; at one time in the most imminent danger of being consumed by the flames. The guides were Capt. Touissant Dubois and a man of the name of Joseph Baron. Capt. Crockett now believes that the army must have been well on to Lake Michigan—thus has ended an enterprise on which the flower of Kentucky enlisted themselves, and are now returning home deeply mortified by the disappointment.

About the time General Hopkins marched, Col. [William] Russell,[2] of the U. S. Army, was to set out with about 800 men,

1. A copy of this seems to have been sent to all generals in the service.

1. Anthony Crockett was born in Prince Edward Co., Va., 1756; represented Ky. in the Va. legislature 1796; served in the Ky. legislature. He was a Revolutionary veteran, serving at White Plains, Monmouth, Saratoga, Germantown, Princeton and Trenton; was with Geo. R. Clark on his Ill. campaign. He was a nephew of Col. Joseph Crockett, 6 ft. 3 in. in height. He died in 1838 at his home in Franklin Co., Ky.

Young, *Battle of the Thames, 164*

2. William Russell of Ky. was appointed a colonel, May 3, 1808, under the act of that year for raising a special military force. He was assigned to the 7th Inf. On this expedition he was commanding rangers.

rangers, regulars and militia, up the Illinois river, and to form a junction with Gen. Hopkins if necessary, about Peoria. [see Oct. 31, above] I hope by some means he will get information of the retreat of the right wing of the army, that he may govern himself accordingly.

What service can three Regts. of Cols. Wilcox's, [Philip] Barbour's and [John] Miller's do on the Wabash this winter? Is there any thing up that river that they can make a stroke upon? Or could they reach you so as to be of any service under your immediate command? I think it of importance for you to determine upon the necessity of continuing them on duty unless there is something of consequence for them to do. It is reported that Gen. Hopkins had a project in view up the Wabash after he returned from the Illinois—you know best what there is to do there.[3]

(This is only substance. not signed.)

Gen. Wm. H. Harrison

H. Johnston to Harrison

(Copy)

Fort Fayette [Pittsburgh] Nov. 3rd 1812

Har. Pa. 768-774

Sir:

In your letter of the "27 Sept. 1812" you directed all the supplies for the North Western Army from the Quarter Master Dept. at this place to be sent by "George Town, New Lisbon and Canton to Wooster" in the State of Ohio. In your letter of the 19 October, you acknowledge the receipt of mine of the 10 October enclosing Invoice of Mil. Stores forwarded to your address at Wooster and in your letter of the 28 Octo. to Major [Amos] Stoddard you say I am very much embarrassed in consequence of my having received no information of the progress that has been made in forwarding the Supplies of Qr. M. Stores and clothing and the direction those have taken which have been sent on. This would seem a self contradiction but perhaps you meant those that were sent on before the destination was altered to Wooster. On the 25 September I had the Honor to receive the Secretarys order to comply with your requisitions. I informed you of it in a letter of the same date, and concluded as follows: "I have

3. It is evident from the names of his guides that they were not to blame.

lately made several shipments of Mil. Stores to Newport, [Ky.] and shall make another today, all of which will be subject to your order or that of the Officer Commanding the North W. Army. Advices and invoices of which were duly forwarded to the Mil. Store Keeper at that place. This letter I am told was sent to you by Express from Newport to Piqua.

I suppose you were at Cincinnati, from whence you had written the 28 August but the Secretary of War you say enclosed me a list of every large supply which left Washington & Philadelphia some time ago. For my part I have duly advised you and enclosed invoices of the Stores forwarded to Wooster & Mansfield the 10th, 12th, 18th, & 29 ults. and informed you in the last, that I had a quantity of Mil Stores to be forwarded to you. and shall continue to send out such as I apprehend will be first wanted as fast as I can hire and purchase Teams for the purpose what more could have been done to prevent the embarrassment of which you complain, nothing I can assure you by any one in my situation. I doubt not however that your Excellency is very much embarrassed, nor that you will be much more, and more seriously so in the course of the Campaign. The letters I have referred to prove the former but your Excellency may rest assured that I shall do every thing that depends upon me to prevent the latter.

I have the Honor Sir

(signed) [HEZEKIAH] JOHNSTON *D & Q Master*

His Excellency Genl HARRISON
Mansfield, Ohio

U. S. Arsenal Schuilkell Oct 8th 1812. Invoice of Stores for delivery by George Ingels Mil. Store keeper to William Linnard Esq Deputy Q. Master for transportation to Lieut H. Johnson, Pittsburg

Packages	Marks	Contents
	U. S.	
Hhd No. 1.....	Lieut H. Johnson Pittsburg...	53 Watch Coats
2.....	"	53 " "
3.....	"	180 Doz large buttons
Twine 4.....	"	22 Watch Coats
Box 1.....	"	53 Felling Axes

Invoice Continued

Packages	Marks	Contents
	U. S.	
2.....	Lieut H. Johnson Pittsburg...	52 Felling Axes
3.....	"	53 "
4.....	"	60 "
5.....	"	54 "
6 & 7.....	"	110 " 55 ea.
8 to 12....	"	270 " 54 ea.
13.....	"	51 "
14 & 15....	"	118 " 59 ea.
16.....	"	52 "
17.....	"	53 "
18.....	"	55 "
19.....	"	19 "
Hhd 21.....	"	13 Saddles 13 Bridles 13 Halters 13 Prs Holsters & Caps 13 Sursingles 13 Comn. Valises
22.....	"	12 of each of the above (articles) 12 Nose bags 12 Curry Combs 12 Horse Brushes
23 & 26...	"	36 Saddles 36 Bridles 12 of each 36 Halters 36 Prs. Holsters & Caps 36 Sursingles 36 Comn Valises 36 Curry Combs 36 Horse Brushes
Hhds No 26 &36	"	154 Nose bags 154 Horse brushes 140 ea. 154 Bridles 154 Halters 154 Prs. Holsters & Caps 154 Saddles in 154 Sursingles ea. 154 Comn, Valises Hhd.
Hhd 39.....		54 Nose bags

Invoice Continued

Packages	Marks	Contents
		18 Horse brushes
		202 Curry Combs
		5 Saddles
		5 Bridles
		5 Halters
		5 Prs. Holsters & Cap
		5 Sursingles
		5 Comn. Valises
Invoice Carried	Over.	
	U. S.	
Tierce No. 40..	Lieut H. Johnson Pittsburg...	200 Horse Cartouch boxes & bells
Bbl 41.....	"	50 Horse Cartouch boxes & bells
Boxes 42, 43, 44	"	3000 Musket Flnts
Hhd 1, 2, 3....	U. S. Pittsburgh	300 Cotton Blankets
4.....	"	20 " "
Bbl 5.....	"	100 Sheets
Boxes 1 to 8....		60 "
1 to 6....	Six each	40 boxes medicine and Apparatus
Casks 132 140 141, 150, 159, 165, 170,		30 in Splints
134, 151, 148, 157, 149, 168	U. S. Pittsburg	420 Galls Molasses (30 ea)
One cask No. unknown		
48, 50, 52, 53,	"	80 Gals (20 ea.)
62, 63, 61.....	"	600 Lbs. Sugar (200 ea.)
2.....	"	180 " "
84, 85.....	"	300 " Rice
80.....	"	100 " Barley
209.....	"	250 " "
34 to 45.....	"	240 Galls Vinegar (20 ea.)
95, 96, 97, 123,	"	180 " " (30 ea.)
124, 126.....	"	
14, 18, 25, 28,	"	100 " Spirits
29, 31, 32.....	"	
21.....	"	20 " "
67 68, 72, 80, 81, 83, 87.....	"	210 " " (30 ea.)
2 at 6, 9, 10....	"	140 Galls Wine (20 ea.)
1, 2, 11, 12, 16, 20, 38, 40, 41,	"	352 " " (32 ea.)

Invoice Continued

Packages	Marks	Contents
44, 45.....	U. S. Pittsburg	
Keg 90.....	"	Spices
Boxes, 241, 242,	"	1000 lbs Chocolate (100 ea.)
256, 259, 261,	"	
263, 264, 266,	"	
269, 270.....	"	
211, 212, 217,	"	325 lbs. Tea (65 each)
224, 228.....	"	67 " "
229.....	"	
280.....	"	Rasins
		26 Packing Hdds
		2 long W B Tierces
		2 Barrels
		81 Casks for Hospital Stores
		17 Boxes for " "

Stores forwarded overland & now to be forwarded to the mouth of Scioto.

A Copy

Test

W[illiam] Prince

U. S. Arsenal on Schuylkill Sept. 8th 1812. Invoice of Stores for delivery by George Ingles Mil. Store Keeper to William Linnard Esq. D. Qr. Master to Lt. H. Johnson, A. D. Qr. Master Pittsburgh.

Packages	Marks	Contents
	U. S.	
Tierces No. 1–9	U. S. Lt. H. Johnson Pittsburgh	180 Com Tents (20 each)
Hhds " 10.	"	192 C. B. & Belts
" " 11.	"	193 " " " "
" " 12.	"	195 " " " "
13.	"	199
Tierces 14.	"	82
15.	"	84
16.	"	84
17.	"	84
18.	"	84
19.	"	82
20.	"	88
L. W. B Tierces		
21.	"	86
22.	"	84
		4 Packed Hhds
		18 Long W. B. Tierces

N. B. Part issued & Part on hand

U. S. Arsenal on Schuylkill Sept. 8th 1812. Invoice of Stores for delivery by George Ingles Military Store Keeper to William Linnard Esq. D. Qr. Master to Lt. H. Johnson A. D. Q. Master Pittsburgh.

Packages	Marks	Contents
Tierces No. 1–9	U. S. Lt. H. Johnson Pittsburgh	180 Com. Tents 20 each
Hdds " 10.	"	192 C.B. & Belts
" " 10.	"	192 " " "
" " 12.	"	195 " " "
13.	"	199 " " "
Tierce 14.	"	82 " " "
15.	"	84 " " "
16.	"	84 " " "
17.	"	84 " " "
18.	"	84 " " "
19.	"	82 " " "
20.	"	88 " " "
LWB Tierce 21.	"	86 " " "
22.	"	84 " " "
		4 Packed Hhds
		18 Long W. B. Tierces

N. B. part & part on hand

U. States Arsenal Schuylkill Oct. 9 1812.

Invoice of Stores for delivery by George Ingels Mil. Store Keeper to William Linnard Esqr. Deputy Q. Master for transportation to Lieut. H. Johnson Pittsburgh.

Packages	Marks	Contents
Hhd No 1.....	U. S. Lieut. Johnson Pittsburgh	500 Prs. Shoes
Tierces 2–6....		1000 " " (200 ea)
Hhd. 7–9....		1500 " " (500 ea)
Tierces 10–44...		700 " " (200 ea)
" 1–4...		5600 Socks (1400 ea)
" 5.....		1400 "
" 6.....		100 "
Boxes 7–54...		1200 Muskets (25 each)
Powder Bbls 55–154.....		100 Bbls Cannon powder
Tierces No. 155 & 156....		2000 Prs Socks (1000 ea)
" 157....		479 Bayonet Scabbards
" 158....		200 Belts
		100 "
		800 Scabbards
" 159....		425 Belts
" 160....		313 "
		4 Packed Hhds
		49 long W Bd Tierces
" 161....		3 short " "
		1200 Gun slings
		1200 brushes &
		1 Long W. Bd Tierce

N. B.

Part issued & part on hand

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

(No 13)

WAR DEPARTMENT Nov. 5th 1812

Har. Pa. 39, 40

SIR:

Your Letters of October 22d and 26th [see above] have been received. I have had repeated conversations with the Hon. [Richard M.] Johnson who has communicated more fully your views and arrangements which are approved. You are authorized to discharge the whole or any part of the Rangers raised in Ohio and Kentucky, whenever their Services are unnecessary and as the Season is fast approaching when it will be difficult for them to subsist their horses and provide rations, it is desirable they should be disbanded as soon as the State of the service will permit. In all cases where White fails in his Contract, or where purchases are made to supply his deficiencies, notice should be given to this Department, that he may be charged.

The Miamies as well as the other Indians, must be dealt with as their merits or demerits may in your judgment require.

Br. General WM. H. HARRISON, Franklin Ohio.

GOVERNOR SHELBY TO HARRISON

Nov. 7th, 1812

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book A" page 33

DEAR SIR: I do myself the honor herewith to transmit to your Excellency the copy of General [Samuel] Hopkins' official report [see Oct. 6 above] to me on the subject of the volunteer expedition under his command. This event has terminated most dishonourably to the volunteers. I have no doubt but their refractory conduct in turning back contrary to the General's consent will be found to be owing to the secret plotting of some who may yet be but little suspected, but who, I hope, will be discovered and placed in their true colours. I am surprised among the great number of influential, eloquent and respectable characters who composed the army, that scores of them did not turn out of the ranks and exert every power to prevent the disgraceful retreat which they were about to make. Various gentlemen with whom I have conversed and whose duty it was to be near Gen. Hopkins admit that his conduct throughout the whole expedition was that of an at-

tentive, vigilant, good officer, yet there are others who to screen themselves from the disgrace consequent to the failure of the enterprise, are spreading the most unfounded, malicious falsehoods against him.

That your efforts may be crowned with great advantage to your country and redound to your own honour is the sincere wish of, my dear sir, your friend

& Mo. Obt. Servt.,

ISAAC SHELBY

To General HARRISON:

P. S. It is stated to me by Maj. [William] Trigg, one of General Hopkins' aids-de-camp, the General had in contemplation about this time to make a descent with the infantry against the Indian towns up the Wabash. I hope he will yet be able to do something to retrieve his own fame. Every necessary supply of provision for the enterprise had been ordered on to Fort Harrison before Major Trigg left Vincennes.

Adieu,

I. SHELBY

SAMUEL TUPPER TO PERKINS

HEAD QUARTERS HURON RIVER Nov 9th 1812

Har. Pa. 745, 746

SIR

It is my duty to state to you that it will be out of the power of the Contractor [B. G. Orr and Aaron Greely] to furnish the number of Rations required by Gen Harrison. As there had been considerable quantities of provisions deposited at Sandusky, Miami, River Resin, and Detroit, for the supply of the army and as these provisions has fallen into the hands of the Enemy in consequence of the Capitulation by Gen Hull, and as the Contractor has not received any notice from the War department, for any further Supplies; he does not consider himself bound by his contract to furnish them.

He feels confident that a concurance of circumstances which render it impossible (at this late season) to comply with the requisition will justify this construction of the Contract. The navigation of the lakes which have been heretofore employed in transporting provisions to the Army, has for several months past been exclusively in possession of the Enemy except for

small boats. The posts required to be supplied have been for several months and still continues in possession of the Enemy, surrounded by a Wilderness on one hand and a desolate country on the other.

My instructions from the Contractor seems to be dictated from a full consideration of all these circumstances.

It would be beyond my instructions to attempt to supply the army at Sandusky or any place beyond.

I will however in behalf of the Contractor continue to furnish such quantities of provisions as may be in my power, to be delivered in bulk after the army leaves this place, the public paying the expense of transportation of flour and Whisky after it passes Cleveland, and this I will continue to do until otherwise instructed. In order to give you the best Idea in my power, of the situation and quantity of flour and Whisky we have on hand. I will state that there are

In Camp say of Flour	100	Barrels
on board of boats Whisky & flour	390	
at Erie by best estimation	460	
	950	

The flour and Whisky in boats may be expected shortly at least the greater part of it. In this case it may be possible that they may make another trip to Erie this fall if the weather should continue warm—of meat we have enough.

I am Sir Respectfully Your Obt Servt.

For the Contractor

Signed SAML. TUPPER

Brigadier Gen PERKINS

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No 19)

HEAD QUARTERS DELAWARE Nov. 9th 1812

Har. Pa. 741, 742

SIR:

I have the Honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of 23 and 24th Ultimo. [see Oct. 23, 24, above] I returned from lake Erie to this place three or four days ago. I found a Detachment of eight hundred Militia under Generals [Elijah] Wadsworth and [Simon] Perkins encamped near the mouth of the River Huron and another detachment of five hun-

dred under General [Rezin] Bell [Beall] twelve miles north of Mansfield. I have ordered the latter to join Genl. Wadsworth and the whole to proceed to lower Sandusky. This Brigade will be commanded by Gen Perkins. The Pennsylvania Troops with the Artillery are about this time at Mansfield, I have directed them to move on to upper Sandusky there to form a junction with the Virginia Troops who arrived at this place on thursday the 6th Inst, but the rains which have fallen and which have inundated the whole Country will prevent their moving further in advance for four or five days at least. This circumstance is to be regretted on some accounts but is nevertheless upon the whole highly benificial as it will put beyond contingency the success of the Campaign provided my orders to those to whom the duties of transporting provisions have been assigned are faithfully executed. By the next Mail I shall have the Honor to lay before you a full View of the Army in every respect. You will get from the Kentucky papers the failure of the Expedition under General [Samuel] Hopkins, altho this result was entirely unexpected by me and must be highly detrimental to our affairs generally, arrangements have been made to prevent as far as possible its injurious effects to the progress of the Army under my command.

By a letter just received from Col. [William P.] Anderson of the 24th Regiment I learn with regret that the contrariety of the Orders from the Adjutant Generals Office and myself had prevented his executing the former and that he remains at Nashville waiting for further Instructions. This delay however affords me an opportunity most respectfully to request your attention to the reasons for producing an order for altering his destination for this Army. The reasons are that almost the whole Army is composed of Militia and the term of Service of the greater part will expire soon after they will reach their place of destination. The greater part of the Troops from this State and those from Pennsylvania and Virginia are undisciplined and altho the Kentucky Troops and a part from this State from a sense of duty which they perfectly understand and the personal Influence which I possess over them will march wherever they are ordered yet I am afraid that the Troops from the other States are strongly tinctured with that abominable principle, that the Militia under the Constitution are not bound to act out of the pre-

cincts of the United States. You will excuse the want of perspicuity in this letter, I write it under disadvantage of a severe tooth ache.

I have the Honor to be with great Respect your
obt. Sevt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honbe W. EUSTIS Esq. *Secy of War*

EDWARD TUPPER TO HARRISON

CAMP NEAR MCARTHURS [HARDIN CO.] BLOCKHOUSE
Nov 10. 5 OClock Morning

Har. Pa. 747, 748

SIR

Conceiving it would be a great satisfaction to you and of much interest to the service to obtain information of the operations of the Enemy at the upper end of Lake Erie I ordered Capt Wood who Commands a company of Spies to proceed to the Rapids, & if possible bring off a prisoner.[1] Capt Hinkton returned last evening with Capt Thomas A Clark a british Subject, who resides two miles above Malden, and was out with a party of 500 Indians & about 50 British gathering in the corn from the fields at the Rapids. Capt Hinkton was but two days in returning to this Camp. The enemy had not yet landed excepting a part of the advance, when Capt. Hinkton took the prisoner, They had brought two gun Boats, one Schooner, & six or seven Batteau to transport the corn to Malden. I wrote Genl Winchester immediately apprising him of this force, but upon reflection found it would require upwards of two days for the Spies to deliver the letter; that it would be three days or near it before Genl Winchester could commence his march & in that time I could be there with a force equal if not superior to that of the Enemy. This, Sir, has determined me to order this detachment to draw five days provisions & with their knapsacks and blankets, only, march this day for the Rapids. My only fear is that it may not meet

1. "Early in November General Tupper sent out his spy company under Captain Hinkston to reconnoitre at the Rapids. The Captain concealed his men on the southeast side of the river where he had discovered a British and Indian encampment in the opposite bottom which was an open prairie. Presently a British officer with a few Indians came over the river and when they had advanced some distance from their boat Capt. Hinkston fired on them and took the officer prisoner."

McAfee, *The Late War*, 168

your entire approbation. But considering it of the utmost consequence if possible to save that forage—That a day was all important, That our Troops were anxious to hazard the fatigues and danger of the expedition & that from the information of Capt Clark (upon the truth of which I assured him his life depended) we might in all probability surprise the enemy; These considerations have induced me to take upon myself the responsibility of the moment. I take with me one field piece, a light six pounder, drawn by six active horses. If we find this force there I am in hopes those Gun Boats will not get an opportunity of returning to Malden. I send Capt Clark to you in the Charge of Mr. Selby.

I am very respectfully

Signed

EDW W. TUPPER *B. Gen*

Genl W H HARRISON *Com in Chief N W Army*

EDWARD TUPPER TO HARRISON

(B) (Extract)

CAMP AT ARMY, Nov. 10th 1812

Har. Pa. 743-4

His Excellency WM H. HARRISON, Esq.

SIR,

Inclosed [see Nov. 9 above] is a Duplicate of a communication received from S[amuel] Tupper Esq. Agent for the contractor M. Porter, which I deem of importance to advise you of immediately. Mr. Tupper arrived in Camp on the sixth inst. and lamented that he could not have seen you since his return. I have conversed with him sundry times on the subject of furnishing the Troops at Sandusky with provision, and have at length obtained this statement and have made no agreement to his proposals of paying for transportation from Cleaveland—not feeling myself authorized to vary an existing contract; However improper it may be in ordinary cases to pay a man a premium on his own contract, it may in this perhaps be advisable to make some allowance on condition of extra exertion—but of this you will judge and please to advise. Mr. Tupper has not received any instructions from Mr. Porter since you was here, and not knowing what Mr. Porter will advise he (W. Tupper) will continue to forward on provision

untill otherwise instructed. I have offered to afford to Mr. Tupper every aid in my power by assisting him with men for his boats * *. I feel mortified to inform you that I am still at Huron, and think it will be several days before any movement will be made toward Sandusky.

The delay is by Genl. [Elijah] Wadsworth deemed necessary in order to hold a Court Martial on Genl. [Reazin] Beall, and a Court will not be convened before tomorrow, as Genl. W. is disposed to have all the field officers in the Detachment on the Court, and Col. Andrews will not be in camp sooner.

No unnecessary delay shall be made after the command is committed to me, and to have that done as expeditiously as possible, I have not at any time, neglected to urge it; but Genl. Wadsworth's opinion as expressed is, that there is now no duty to be attended to so important as this trial. A Scout has been to Sandusky who report that, there is now there a considerable quantity of corn, one or two thousand Bushels of which I hope to secure. I have proposed to send out a Detachment of 100 or 150 men to take provision and secure the property which will I fancy be done in a few days, and if we meet with no unexpected delay in the Court Martial will make a general movement for Sandusky in six or eight days—a party are now out exploring and marking the road.[1]

Glegg to Baynes

York 11th Nov. 1812

Wood, *Canadian War of 1812, 419*

My Dear Sir,

At the request of Mr. Robert Dickson[1] the bearer of this letter who intends proceeding immediately to Montreal on his private affairs, I take the liberty of giving him an introduction to you, in order that previous to his being presented to His Excellency, some interesting particulars may be made known through your obliging communication.

Mr. Dickson is closely connected with the most respectable

1. There is some difficulty in these letters. Gen. Edward Tupper writes from McArthur's Blockhouse, Nov. 10, and also from what seems to be "Camp of Army" on the same day. Most probably the address "McArthur's Blockhouse" is wrong. Edward Tupper enclosed Samuel Tupper's letter to Harrison, who enclosed a copy of it to the war department.

1. Robert Dickson was an unofficial representative of the British interests among the Northwest Indians. His headquarters were at Malden but he traded principally from Michillimacinac.

families in this Province, who have invariably shewn themselves sincere and zealous friends to His Majesty's Government.

The Gentleman in question, has resided for a number of years in the character of a mercantile Trader in the Western Territory, and owing to his influence and assistance with the powerful Tribes of Indians some important services have been performed for the British cause. His influential Interest with the Western Indians has been repeatedly acknowledged by this Government, and his efforts in having decided that much injured race of Aborigines to abstain from hostilities with the United States have been well known here and duly acknowledged. During the month of Fe. 1812, existing circumstances made it highly necessary to ascertain the sentiments and intentions of the Western Indians. Promises of their continued forbearance had been constantly made thro' the Agents of the Indian Department, but it was much apprehended by my vigilant and ever to be lamented friend (Brock), that the attack made by General Harrison's army upon the Shawnese Indians assembled under the Prophet on the Wabash on the 7th Nov. 1811 [Battle of Tippecanoe] might possible produce some spirit of retaliation—It now became an object of considerable importance to open a communication without loss of time, with the neighbouring Indians bordering on the Misisipi.

No doubt could be then entertained of the premeditated destruction of the Indians by the Americans, and that merely because they had presumed to continue to establish themselves in the peaceful occupations of their native woods and villages. The most prompt measures were immediately adopted by the head of this Government, in conformity with the repeated Instructions of His Excellency and those of His Predecessor Sir James Craig, to prevent, by every possible exertion, the threatening flame from reaching our Frontier.

Mr. Dickson's influence with the Indians being well known, the advantage of immediately opening a communication with him became obvious, and the accompanying paper (number I) was depatched to him early in february last by two confidential Indians. Mr. Dickson was then at the Portage called Ouisconsin which is about one hundred and eighty miles from the Mississipi and the same distance from LaBaie, about 800 miles from Amherstburg. He was then employed in admin-

istering in his mercantile capacity, to the severe distresses of their women and children who were literally languishing for want of food & clothing, owing to our supplies having been discontinued and to the severity of the season.

Mr. Dickson received the enclosed paper (No. 1) early in May and immediately replied to it (No. 2). Previous to this date Mr. Dickson had observed an unusual degree of activity in the American Agents who were then residing amongst the Indians, and having ascertained that presents were daily distributed by these people, which by the bye was a novel circumstance, he made immediate inquiry, and was informed by some of the Principal Chiefs, that the American Agents, had been directed by their Government, to invite some of their leading wariors from each nation, to pay an early visit to Washington. A combination of various circumstances left no doubt in the mind of Mr. Dickson, that all this was intended as a prelude to more important events. His first endeavour was to dissuade the Chiefs from listening to the invitation of the American Government, and to point out the imminent danger of the proposed alliance. Mr. Dickson fully succeeded in every object, and he received the strongest assurance of friendship and suppor in the cause of their Father the British Monarch, whenever circumstances should render their assistance necessary. Soon after this communication passed, intelligence reached the Wabash Indians, that General Hull with an army of two thousand men was on his march to Detroit. The Shawnese and other nations voluntarily offered to attack him on his route, but were still induced to desist from it, by the repeated entreaties of the friends and Agents of the British Government.

It is however a well known fact, that General Hull's movements were all closely watched by Tecumpthsey's confidential Scouts, who were considered and received by the American General as friends attached to their Interest. At the capure of Michilimackinac, Mr. Dickson took an active part, and his services on that occasion, have been honorably recorded by Captain Roberts. After the surrender of that Post, an Expedition was immediately formed (at the solicitation of Major General Brock) by the Gentlemen of the "Northwest" and "Southwest" companies then assembled at Michilimackinac, to cooperate with the Force then contemplated to be employed

against Detroit. So imperious however, was the necessity for despatch, in carrying this operation into execution, that the expedition under Major General Brock reached its destination and succeeded in its object, before the Indians intended for assistance, could form a junction with our little army. The intelligence of their approach had however reached the Enemy, and I have particular reason for knowing, that this circumstance produced very considerable influence in the final negotiation.

In justice to the memory of our lamented friend Major General Brock, and in obedience to what I am confident, would have been his intentions I have taken the liberty of troubleing you with this confidential communication, which you will be pleased to make use of, as your superior Judgment and discretion may point out. I am not aware of Mr. Dickson's immediate views in soliciting an interview with His Excellency, but I have a perfect knowledge that there is no Gentleman in this Province more capable than himself of giving accurate information respecting the Western Indians than himself, and I am authorized in saying, that had General Brock survived the late contest, he intended pointing out Mr. Dickson to the notice of His Majesty's Government, as a Gentleman who by his zealous and faithful service has proved himself deserving of their special protection.

I remain My Dear Sir With much esteem
very faithfully yours
J. B. CLEGG *Capt. 49th Regt.*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No 20)

HEAD QUARTERS FRANKLINTON 15 Nov. 1812

Har. Pa. 749-765

SIR,

I arrived here from Delaware three days ago for the purpose of meeting Col. [James] Morrison and to make some other arrangements which shall be explained in the course of this communication. Upon the day of my arrival, the enclosed letter [see Nov. 10, above] from Genl [Edward] Tupper was received. The movement which he has made is extremely hazardous. It was not possible to send him a reinforcemeent of mounted men from hence in time to render him any service.

I hope however that Genl. Winchester will have descended the Miami as soon as the intelligence from Genl Tupper reaches him. An Express was also immediately dispatched to Genl [Simon] Perkins apprising him of the landing of the British at the Rapids and directing his advance. Genl. Tupper has with him less than seven hundred men, but they are all Volunteers from his Brigade. They therefore, no doubt are determined fellows and I have much confidence in the Genl's Talents.

I have received no information from Genl. [Samuel] Hopkins but there is no doubt of the complete failure of the mounted expedition [up the Wabash] under his command and that measures must be immediately taken to prevent the evils which will otherwise flow from it. As soon as the information reached me I determined to direct an Expedition against the Miami Town of Mississineway. The situation of this town as it regards one of my lines of operation even if the hostility of the inhabitants was less equivocal would render a measure of this kind highly proper, but from the circumstance of Genl. Hopkins failure, it has become indispensible. Relieved from the fears excited by the late invasion of their country, the Indians from the Upper part of the Illinois river to the South of Lake Michigan will direct all their efforts against Fort Wayne and the Convoys which are to follow the track of the left wing of the Army. Mississineway will be their rendezvous where they will receive provisions & every assistance they may require for any hostile enterprise. From that place they can by their runners ascertain the period at which every Convoy may set out from St. Mary's and with certainty intercept it previously to its arrival at the Miami Rapids. But that place being broken up and the provisions destroyed there will be nothing to subsist any body of Indians nearer than the Potawatamie Towns upon the waters of the St. Joseph's of Lake Michigan. The Troops destined for the Mississineway Expedition are the Dragoons belonging to my army with the addition perhaps of a single Company of mounted Volunteers. The Dragoons will amount to about six hundred—but the greater part of them are to be relied upon. The Expedition will be commanded by Lt. Col [John B.] Campbell of the 19 Regt. He has not military experience but is brave, sensible & judicious and will be ably seconded by the talents & expe-

rience of Major [James V.] Ball. I am confident that you will not hear of any retrogade movement upon the part of this detachment until the object upon which they are sent is accomplished.

My preparations for the principal object of the Campaign are progressing, not however with the rapidity consonant to my wishes and I think I may say, to my personal exertions. For the route of the Left Wing of the Army upwards of a million of rations of flour have been provided. When I had last a report 75,000 were at Defiance, 30,000 on packhorses going to that place and near to it, 120,000 at St. Mary's, 200,000 at Piqua, 100,000 between the latter place & Dayton going on in waggons and the balance at Lebanon, Franklin & other places on the big Miami. There ought also to be at Fort Jenning's 30 or 40,000 Rations. The great defect is in the means of transportation. Almost all of the fine teams which were brought from Kentucky have been worn down and discharged and the greater part of the pack horses are in the same situation and the roads have become almost impassable for waggons. Foreseeing this I early turned my attention towards the providing of water Transport. Something considerable has been done in this way, but by no means equal to my expectations and the orders I had given. At St. Mary's a boat and some perogues were prepared and will have left that place on the 12 or 13 with nearly four hundred barrels a part of which will be left at Fort Wayne and the balance taken on to Defiance (Fort Winchester). At the latter place boats and perogues capable of transporting 350 or 400 Barrels were prepared on the 5th of this month and others were progressing at Col Jennings' block-house also several batteau were in considerable state of forwardness. All these were I hope & expect ordered up the Auglaise upon the first rise of the water to take in loading at Tawa Town, which is only fourteen miles from St. Mary's. Mr. Piatt also informs me that a part of the flour purchased on the Miami has been ordered up the river in boats to Loramies. If these means are pushed in the manner that they may be, I expect in two weeks to have at Fort Winchester 500,000 Rations of flour, whisky & small parts with Salt to lay down the Meat part of the Rations together with all the Quarter Master's stores & clothing which have been prepared for that wing. On the route of the Centre

Column by Urbana, there were on the 10 Inst. at McArthur's Block house forty four miles in advance of Urbana, 200,000 Rations of flour whisky and small parts deposited there by the Deputy Commissary [John H.] Piatt with salt sufficient to lay down the Meat part of the Ration to that amount. Of the supplies ordered to be furnished by Major [Ebenezer] Denny there are now at Delaware twenty five miles above this place Six hundred Barrels of flour; at Norton twelve miles farther 100 Barrels & four or five Hundred are ready at the Mills below this.

Having been informed in the latter end of September by Governor Meigs that the Contractor Mr. [John P. B.] Porter had declared his inability to supply provisions for the Army as long as the Lake was controled by the Enemy, I thought it unnecessary to call upon him. Finding however that small boats were permitted to pass safely from Presquile to Huron, I addressed a letter to him upon my arrival at Genl. Perkins' Camp requiring him if possible to send on 500,000 Rations instead of the 200,000 which had been demanded of him by Genl. [Elijah] Wadsworth and which he had positively promised that officer to supply. The enclosed copy of a letter [see Nov. 9 & 10, above] from his agent (B) will shew that he has determined not to supply the Rations which he promised and which he has on the margin of the Lake unless he is paid an advanced price for bringing it above Cleveland. I have directed Genl. [Simon] Perkins to get hold of the flour if possible and leave it to be settled for by the Government. There is no difficulty in procuring the Meat part of the Ration and I have taken care to have salt provided for laying it down. It will be driven to the Rapids of Miami and then salted, For which Genl Winchester and Genl Perkins have been directed to provide materials for Barrels.

I do not think that it will be safe to advance from the Miami Rapids until we can have there one Million of Rations. Of these I calculate 500,000 to be taken by the route of the left wing. The 200,000 at McArthur's Blockhouse can be transported at three trips by six hundred pack horses and I calculate upon getting to the Lower Sandusky by the means now providing here 300,000 Rations. The Deposits directed to be made by Major White at McArthur's Block house at Fort Jenning's, & at Upper Sandusky and by Mr. Porter at Lower

Sandusky are not to be relied upon. A part will however be received, sufficient perhaps to supply what may fall short in my calculations from the Commissary's Department. You can scarcely form an idea, Sir, of the difficulty with which land transportation is effected north of the fortieth degree of Latitude in this country. The Country beyond that is almost a continued swamp to the Lakes. When the streams run parallel to your course a small strip of better ground is generally found. But in crossing from one river to another the greater part of the way at this season is covered with water. Such is actually the situation of that space between the Sandusky & the Miami Rivers and from the best information I could acquire whilst I was at Huron, the road over it must be causewayed at least half the way. This difficulty great as it may seem is not however insuperable. The timber of the proper size grows so thick upon it that Genl Perkins & other persons accustomed to that kind of work assure me that a Causeway sufficiently wide for the purpose can be made there with as much ease as a road of four Rods wide can be opened & cleared in heavy timbered Up-Land. Genl. Perkins has undertaken to effect it with his Brigade and Governor Meigs has agreed that the money which has been appropriated by Government for making the road in that direction shall be distributed amongst his men. If this plan should fail there is yet another way to go from the Lower Sandusky to the Miami Rapids. The Isthmus which connects the Sandusky Peninsula to the Main is much narrower than is laid down on the map and is much nearer to the former factory at Sandusky Rapids—in fact it is but a mile & one half from the Bay to the Mouth of Portage River on the lake & from thence to the Miami Bay 18 or 20 miles. Throughout this distance the Swamp borders on the beach of the Lake—but the beach itself is a beautiful sand and sufficiently firm it is supposed, near the water to bear Waggons. From the mouth of the Miami Bay to the Rapids the ground is good. I have sent to Cleveland to purchase some boats that are there and have directed them to be loaded with anything that can be procured for the subsistence of the Army or the horses belonging to it. I had calculated upon drawing a considerable quantity of forage from the Connecticut Reserve but am informed the supply to be obtained there is very limited.

The Virginia Brigade has been for some days at Delaware. Previously to their arrival there, Deserters had been very common. Ten or twelve had gone off in one night. The dissatisfaction was supposed by the Genl. & field officers to be produced by the want of clothing, particularly blankets. I have at the instance of their Commander agreed that they shall remain there until blankets shall arrive which have been sent for and are now coming on from Cincinnatti. The delay is productive of no injury to the Service as the Contractors are not ready for them at Upper Sandusky and I employ detachments from them to improve the road in their front and rear. The Pennsylvania Brigade will arrive at Mansfield today. Its march has been retarded by High waters which has also subjected them to some little embarassment on the score of provisions. They will proceed the more direct route to Upper Sandusky and be there joined by the Virginia Troops. The road which was ordered to be opened to Lower Sandusky by Governor Meigs has not been effected through the obstinacy of Genl. [Elijah] Wadsworth. Indeed the old Gentleman with the best intentions and animated by the most ardent patriotism has done much mischief. He has arrested Genl. [Reazin] Beall for obeying the Governor's orders with respect to opening the road to Sandusky and is delaying the march of the Detachmt under Genl. [Simon] Perkins for the purpose of trying him. To put a stop to his farther interferences I have procured an order from Governor Meigs & Genl. Perkins no longer to regard the directions of Genl. Wadsworth.

Col. [James] Morrison arrived here yesterday. He is very uneasy upon the subject of funds for his Department. I fear Sir, that the Expenses of this Expedition will greatly exceed the calculations which have been made the grounds for the appropriations of funds for the Quarter Master's use. A single fact will at once shew the difficulty of the undertaking and the expense which will attend it. We are now purchasing corn here to be transported in Waggons to Upper Sandusky. Col. Morrison believes that it will require two waggons with corn to support their ox teams & one other with flour to that place & back again and yet there must be a deposit there for the support of all the horses & oxen of the Ordinance, Quarter Masters & Commissary's Departments in the advance of the Army from thence & which must amount

to at least two thousand. The object to be accomplished is however considered of great national importance & expense must not be regarded. The Government may however be perfectly satisfied that every Dollar that is appropriated will be faithfully and as economically employed as possible. The long experience of Col. Morrison in affairs of this kind is a pledge for the former as his high character and unblemished reputation is for the latter.

It will be impossible to use the Dragoons in the advance to Detroit this Winter from the want of forage. I shall establish their Quarters in the heart of the settled Country, where forage is very cheap and employ them in desultory expeditions. In this manner they may be eminently useful, in a short time it will be an elegant Corps. Capt [Samuel Goode] Hopkins has an Hundred men in his troops. Major [James V.] Ball informs me that Capt. [Alexander] Cummings[1] is at Pittsburgh with Eight or ten. If he were to come on here, with those & the surplus of Hopkins; a complete Troop could be formed for him. Will you be pleased to order him to do so. I am persuaded that a body of Dragoons employed in the manner that I propose will be not only more useful but more economical than the Mounted Riflemen procured in this Country.

Sir, I have the honor to be With great respect & regard
Yr Hble Servt

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble WM. EUSTIS Esq *Secretary of War*

P. S. Col. [James] Morrison has just called & informs me that the corn which has been forwarded from this place to Delaware has averaged one Dollar & fifty cents p. Bushel.

EDWARD TUPPER TO HARRISON

(Copy)

CAMP NEAR MCARTHUR'S BLOCK HOUSE, Nov. 16, 1812

Har. Pa. 779-786

SIR;

My letter of the 10th instant informed you of my preparation to march that day to the Rapids, in consequence of the information I obtained of the prisoner, Capt. Clark. I am sorry

1. Alexander Cummings was born in Ireland; enlisted light dragoons from Pa. May 3, 1801; made a capt. Nov. 1, 1811; served till Dec. 1, 1839; died Jan. 31. 1842.

to inform you, that I have not succeeded to the extent of my expectations; though I am convinced the movement will prove beneficial to the service.

On the morning of the 10th, about eleven o'clock, we moved from this Camp, with a force consisting of 604 men, exclusive of officers, with one light six-pounder, the soldiers carrying in their knapsacks five days provisions. Owing to the state of the roads, I soon found the field-piece could not be carried forward without retarding our march. I left it at the block-house, 15 miles in advance.

On the evening of the 13th, we reached Carion [Carrying] river (about 18 miles from the Rapids). I ordered Capt. Hinkton to proceed that night to examine the situation of the enemy; Capt. Hinkton met me the next day about five miles from the Rapids, with the information that the enemy still occupied the Rapids, and that the boats and vessels lay a little below. I detained the troops till sunsetting, so as not to fall in with their daily scouts, and proceeded in the evening to the ford, about two and a half miles above the Rapids; I there again halted, while Capt. Hinkton and Wood of the spies proceeded down and examined the exact situation of the encampments of the enemy. At nine o'clock they returned and gave me the necessary information; they were encamped in a body above the Bougron's house, were engaged in dancing and (as they concluded) drinking. I immediately ordered the troops to prepare to cross the river to attack the enemy at the dawn of day.

Colonel Safford, who commanded the second regiment, I ordered to proceed, marching by the left flank in single files; colonel [John] Miller, commanding the third regiment, followed in the same order; major Galloway, who commanded a battalion of the first regiment, I ordered to march thirty paces to the left, so as to act as a reserve as circumstances might require, the two regiments being sufficient to form a line to enclose the enemy with the river. Every officer had been instructed in his duty, and every soldier ordered to leave the ranks, who felt an unwillingness to pass over, that our situation would admit of no retreat, and that when we had gained the other shore, they had only to choose between victory and death. The soldiers cheerfully took up the line of march. Though I had ordered the fords examined, I had still fears, whether the

men could resist the current—they had undergone a fatiguing march, had then lay on the ground without fires nearly three hours, the wind blowing almost a gale from the north-west. Though the soldiers were shivering with cold, they did not hesitate to attempt the foard. I proceeded over with the first section, instructing them to lock arms to resist the current. A part of the first company passed over in safety; but scarcely had they reached the shore, when a cry of "help, I am drowning," was heard from the companies in the rear. The current was sweeping the men down the Rapids in spite of the exertions of those who were stronger and better able to resist it. The few horses we had were sent in to save the men, and fortunately succeeded; about ten guns were lost, and the greater part of the ammunition of the musket men entirely destroyed. I next attempted to bring the men over on horses, but owing to their being weak, many of the horses were swept from their feet, and their riders thrown into the current. I soon found that it would not be possible to cross the whole force before day-light; and some, when over, they would not be in a condition to contend with a force of two-thirds their numbers. I was very reluctantly compelled to stop the passing over of the men, and send back such as had crossed. This occupied us till 3 o'clock in the morning. I immediately ordered the wet arms to be dried, and caused cartridges to be taken from the men who had not been in the river and distributed to those whose cartridges had been wet.

In the morning, convinced we were unable to get at the enemy, I ordered the spies to endeavour to decoy them over; they proceeded down and discovered themselves; about 15 came over, but they were so cautious as not to be drawn within our lines. The spies, however, wounded two of them. After finding they were not coming over with any considerable force, I marched down and showed the heads of our columns opposite their encampment at Bougron's. They appeared in considerable disorder, as the advanced guard opened from the woods. The British, who were in the vessels and boats, immediately cut loose and proceeded down the river. The women were seen running off, on the road leading to Detroit; the men commenced a fire towards us. The Indians showed a force of between four and five hundred; every one discharged his piece; They had one piece of artillery which they discharged;

from its report I considered it a four-pounder. After a number of challenges for them to cross over by our men, I ordered the march back to our encampment, having previously observed a number of Indians mounting their horses and taking the direction of the foard. When within about one mile of our encampment, some of the soldiers without permission and contrary to orders, fired upon a gang of Hogs from the rear of the right column, and pursued them nearly half a mile; at the same time, 8 or 10 men, without my knowledge left the ranks and entered a field to gather corn. At this moment a body of mounted Indians came upon them, and killed four men; and then rode violently up to the right flank and commenced an attack. I ordered the right column thrown back and commenced a brisk fire, at the same time advancing upon them, they gave the ground; but in a few minutes rallied, and passing along our van-guard, made a violent charge upon the rear of the left column. This was thrown briskly back, and resisted every attempt to break the lines. In 20 minutes they were driven from the field. Conceiving that the attack by this force of mounted men was but to get our troops into disorder, to make room for an attack of their foot, I ordered the right column to move up into marching order, lest that attack should be made on our right flank. This column had scarcely regained their position, when major Beasly, who commanded a battalion on that flank, sent and informed me that the Indians were crossing the river in considerable numbers at the head of the column. I immediately ordered the left column to resume their marching order, and proceeded to the head of the right column, which was nearly up to the ford. I found a number of Indians had crossed on horseback; some in the middle of the river crossing, and about two hundred still on the opposite bank. I ordered major Bently to advance with his Battalion and dislodge them. In this he succeeded in a few minutes; several of them were shot from their horses while crossing the river. I observed them floating down the Rapids at a distance below their horses. The sun at this time was setting.

The Indians which had made the attack upon our rear, crossed at a ford below the rear of our columns. We had but one man touched by a bullet in our lines, and he but slightly; one of our spies was also wounded. A number of Indians were shot from their horses. They, with great dexterity,

threw them on again and carried them off the field; from the information of a number of men on whom I can rely, as well as from what I was witness to, from 15 to 20 Indians were carried off, either killed or disabled. Split Log, mounted on an active white horse, led on the several attacks at the commencement. His horse was well trained; he sometimes fired from him, and at other times leaped from him behind a tree. At some of the last attacks another rider was mounted on that horse, when the horse was wounded and taken from the field. Colonel Elliot was along our rear and right column, at about 300 yards distance; he was well known by several persons in our lines. The Indians' horses were very different from such as I have been accustomed to see them riding; they were high and active. They were also supplied with pistols and holsters. I have reason to believe the whole force of the enemy was very little, if any, inferior to our own; of this I was well convinced from the information of captains Hinkton and Wood, who examined the number of their files before we attempted to cross; but from the advantage we had gained by our approach, and the determined spirit of the soldiers, I felt not the least hesitation in attacking them; and well am I convinced that nothing but the situation of the river prevented our making a complete slaughter of their whole force, and securing the gunboats and batteaux loading with corn.

From the time that had elapsed after Gen. Winchester must have received my letter informing him of the force at the Rapids I had every reason to expect he would have ordered down a sufficient number of troops to maintain that post or rout the enemy. On the morning of the 14th I sent an express to him stating the impossibility of my crossing; that my troops were out of provisions and that I could not attempt to continue longer than the next day at that place. Whether he has sent down a force I know not.

The troops under my command had consumed their provisions some on the evening of the 13th and all on the 14th, and had then a distance of 40 miles to travel back before there was a possibility of supply. I was therefore compelled to abandon a position I felt myself fully able to maintain.

It is a duty, sir, I owe both to the officers and soldiers, to say that they have performed this march through roads, almost impassable, wet and deep; they have marched late and

early; have endured wet, cold, and hunger, without a murmur or a complaint. They have at all times cheerfully sought the enemy, and when engaged and commanded to charge them have rushed upon them at full speed.

The enemy had gathered very little of the corn from the fields on this side of the Rapid, and I have reason to believe they took but little off on their boats; what quantity remains on the other shore, I am not able to determine.

The troops encamp this evening 10 miles from this place. I left them this morning, at 10 o'clock; they will arrive in the course of the day [or] to-morrow, when they will have performed a march of one hundred and sixty miles in eight days, one of which was spent in manoeuvring and contending with the enemy. I am, very respectfully, etc.[1]

EDWARD W. TUPPER

Brig. Gen. HARRISON

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No 21)

HEAD QUARTERS FRANKLINTON 17 Nov 1812

Har. Pa. 766-767

SIR

I have heard nothing since my last from General [Edward] Tupper.

I have the honor to enclose you a letter [see Nov. 3 above] lately received from Lieut. [H.] Johnson the Assistant Qr. Master Pittsburg. It is in answer to a complaint which I had equally made of Major [Amos] Stoddard Lieut [James W.] Bryson and himself upon my want of information as to the State of the supplies under their care, and directing them to send me weekly statements of every thing received, forwarded and on hand. From both the other officers, I received polite and satisfactory answers. Mr. Johnson alone has thought proper not only to be very insolent upon the occasion, but instead of the documents required to send me these of which copies are herewith inclosed. One principal object with me in giving the direction was to know when & where I might expect the articles which I wanted.

1. This is published in the *Historical Register II, 140,* with the omission of the reference to Gen. Winchester. This criticism applies to a great many of the official papers published in all contemporary publications. They were pretty closely censored. Winchester arrived at Tupper's camp soon after the latter left.

McAfee, *The late War, 171-2*

The information could not as you may suppose be obtained by such remarks as he has made Viz: "Forwarded over land in part the to the mouth of Scioto" and "a part issued and a part on hand". The fact is that at the time of receiving his communication I was unable to tell where I was to send for certain articles which were much wanted.

Gun slings for instance were required for the mounted expedition. I knew that they had been at Pittsburg, but was at a loss to know whether I was to send to Mansfield or to the mouth of Scioto for them. I know not what can be Mr. Johnson's motive for this conduct. But it is certain if persisted in it cannot fail to do great injury to the service if not entirely defeat the Campaign. He cannot plead ignorance because he received (as the Major informs) written instructions from Major [Amos] Stoddard. I have been informed that Mr. Johnson without ever having seen me and before I had any communication with him had been pleased to express the most unfriendly disposition towards me. I am however disposed to pass over his improper conduct upon receiving assurances that it will not be repeated.

This declaration I suppose he will make upon being informed by you that his continuance in a station so important to the army I command will depend upon my view of the propriety with which he discharges its duties.

I have the honor to be With Great Respect Sir
Your Humble Servant
WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honorable WILLIAM EUSTIS *Secretary of War*
City Washington

MCJUNKIN FERRIAGE

November 1812

Mss. in Indiana State Library

I do Certefy that Mr. CcJunkins ferry man on White River Did on the eighteenth of November eighteen hundred and twelve Did ferry over white River eighteen men and horses in the Service of the united States

JOSEPH MONTGOMERY *Capt 2B 4 Regt In Millitia*

November the 20 1812

This is to Certifi that John McYunkin has ferried five of my

Company of Mounted Molitia Cald in to servis by General John Gibson acton govner on There way to vincin. The 18 of this Instant givin onder my hand

THOS SPENCER *C'p't 3 B 4 Regt I M*

November the 18—1812

this is to sertify that John McJunkin has ferried forty too of my Company of Mounted Militia Called in to servis by John Gibssons Acting as govorner on there way to vincins Given under My hand

GS WIGGINS *Capt*

November the 19th 1812

A Detachment of Captain John Milburns Company Consisting of 19 Mounted Men Ordered in to the Service of the United States by John Gibson Secretary and acting Governer Crossed white River this day at John McJunkin's Ferry—

The Deputy quarter Master of the Indiana and Elinois Territorys will pay John McJunkin Nineteen Ferrage agreeably yo the above Returne

JOHN MILBURN *Capt*

HARRISON GENERAL ORDERS

N. W. ARMY HEAD-QUARTERS, FRANKLINTON,
November 19, 1812

Niles Register III, 217

The commanding general returns his thanks to brigadier-general [Edward] Tupper and the corps which lately advanced to the Miami rapids, for the perseverance, zeal, activity and bravery with which they conducted themselves on that enterprize. A casual circumstance only, and one which the general or his men could not control, prevented them from surprizing and cutting to pieces a detachment of the enemy equal in numbers to their own. The measures of general Tupper appear to have been highly judicious, both in his advance to the enemy, and in resisting their attacks. The general is sorry that any circumstance in an affair which reflects honor on almost the whole of the troops engaged in it, should deserve his censure; such, however, is merited by the small detachment, which, in the face of a positive order from their commander, left their ranks to gather corn, and pursue a drove of hogs.

But for this disorderly conduct, general Tupper would have brought back in safety his whole command. The commanding general feels, however, so much more to praise than blame, in the conduct of general Tupper's detachment, that he derives no small satisfaction in exhibiting it as a worthy example of militiary spirit and enterprize to the rest of his army

NATHL. F. ADAMS *Deput. Adj.-Gen.*

SHELBY TO HARRISON

November 20th, 1812

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book A" 38

DEAR SIR:—I enclose to your Excellency a copy of a letter received from General [Samuel] Hopkins wherein he proposes the discharge of three regiments of six months men under his command, to-wit: the 6th, 3rd and 8th Regts. of the Detached Militia of this State, commanded by Cols. Barbour, Wilcox and Miller.

I do not consider myself as invested with power to direct the General in this case, nor have I such a knowledge of the situation of the enemy that menace that quarter as to justify even an advice to the General; but believing that he is acting solely under authority derived from yourself, and that you are the most competent judge of the propriety of continuing those men in power—will you be pleased to give Gen. Hopkins instructions as to the discharge of those men, or if you wish that I should do it, be so good as to write me immediately, and I will take the earliest opportunity to apprise him of your instructions.

I am, &c., &c.,

ISAAC SHELBY

Major-General WM. H. HARRISON, *Commanding, &c.,*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

HEAD QUARTERS FRANKLINTON Nov. 20. 1812

Har. Pa. 786, 787

SIR

I have the honor to enclose you a list of the Staff Appointments which I have made pursuant to the power given me in your

letter of the 17th. September, which yet requires the confirmation of the President & Senate.

I have the honor to remain With great respect
Yr Hble Sevt.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

The Honble WM. EUSTIS Esq. *Secretary of War*
Washington

A list of Staff appointments made by His Excy Wm. H. Harrison Commander in Chief of the Northwestern Army by authority of the President of the United States

Names	Rank	Corps to which they belong	Appointment	Date
Nath. F. Adams	Capt	4th Regt. U. S. Inf	Dep. Adj. Gen	Aug. 26th 1812
Nath. G. L. Hart	"	5th Regt. K. Vol.	Dep. Ins. Gen.	Oct. 5. 1812
Robert Butler	"	24th Regt. U. S. Inf	Asst. Dep. Adjt. Gen.	Oct. 5. 1812
David Gwynne	1st Lieut.	19th Regt. " "	Paymaster 19th Reg. U. S. Infty.	Oct. 7. 1812
Robert D. Richardson			Deputy Com. of Ord	Nov. 15. 1812
Charles Madiss			Con. of Art	"
Robert McCall			Surg. Mate 12th Vol.	Nov. 19. 1812
Melancton Pettit			" " " "	"

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 22.)

HEAD QUARTERS FRANKLINTON 20 Nov. 1812

Har. Pa. 775-778

SIR:

I have the honor to enclose you Genl. [Edward] Tupper's report of his proceedings in his Expedition to the Rapids. [see Nov. 16 above] Although the object which he had in view has not been completely accomplished, it is probable that the Enemy have been so much alarmed that they will abandon their object of taking away the corn, if they do not I have directed Genl. [James] Winchester & Genl [Simon] Perkins to ascertain the fact & dislodge them.

From the copies of your letters to the Presidents of the Cincinnatti & Kentucky Banks received under cover from your office this day I presume that funds have been lodged in those institutions to meet the Drafts authorized to be drawn upon them. This has relieved Col. [James] Morrison from much embarrassment and will enable him to provide the means of transportation for the Army. I am sorry to tell you that all my calculations as to the water Transportation upon the St. Mary's & Auglaize River have failed. The water was too low before the Boats & perogues were ready. Our reliance must now be entirely upon Pack-horses, of which it will require three thousand. Arrangements are made for purchasing them immediately.

Genl. Winchester has exhibited charges against Genl. [Edward] Tupper and has requested me to appoint a Court of Enquiry for himself. It is to be regretted that he should think either necessary. I had however ordered Genl. Tupper in arrest before I knew of his departure for the Rapids and he did not receive it until his return. It will not be possible to have either the Court of Enquiry or Court Martial until the Army unites at the Rapids.

Believing that my presence will be much more useful in the rear than with the front of the Army for some time I shall remain here probably until the Troops of this wing are ready to leave Upper Sandusky.

I am very much gratified at the promotion of Cap. Zachariah Taylor for his conduct at Fort Harrison. Perhaps however Dr. Clarke whose gallant conduct on that occasion deserves

the highest commendation will not escape the attention of the President. I have known him for a long time and am well convinced that he would do honor to the Service. He has been anxious to obtain an appointment in the line of the Army & I hope such merit will not be overlooked. I should have recommended him long since but from my fear that he would be opposed by Mr. [Jonathan] Jennings, Cap. William Prince of the Indiana Militia who served with me during the Campaign on the Wabash & was recommended by me for a Captaincy in the Army, I have thought proper to appoint Brigade Major. As the appointment may not be strictly proper according to law, I must request for him the best Commission in the Army which you can give him. [He received none]

I have the honor to remain With great respect & regard.

Yr Hble Servt

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble WILLIAM EUSTIS, Esq. *Secretary of War,*
Washington

HARRISON TO CAMPBELL

HEAD QUARTERS FRANKLINTON Nov. 25th 1812

Har. Pa. 815-819

SIR:

The object of the command which has been assigned to you is the attack and destruction of the Miami villages at Mississineway. You will continue your march today through Springfield, Xenia and Dayton to Eaton at which latter place supplies of Forage and Rations have been ordered for you. Should the supplies of either not be sufficient or should anything be wanting towards the equipment of your detachment you are authorized to call upon the contractor or Qr. Master to furnish you. You have with you William Conner as a guide who has been frequently to Mississineway and is well acquainted with the country thro which you have to pass. It will be safer however to employ several other guides. John Connor is on White Water in the Indiana Territory and may easily be sent for and it is probable also that there are many persons to be found about Greenville or Eaton who have frequently been across the country to Mississineway; you cannot be too well supplied with Guides. It is left to yourself to

determine upon your route to Mississineway after your arrival at Eaton and your decision will be governed by the best information you receive from Conner and others whom you may consult. The route by Greenville is to be preferred on account of its being more distant from the Delaware Towns which I wish you by all means to avoid. The Delawares have been directed to leave their Towns and retire to the Shawanee establishment on the Auglaize River, [on] their route to the latter place there is a probability of your falling in with them. This would be unfortunate as the faith of the Government has been pledged for their safety. It will be necessary that care should be taken to avoid coming in contact with them or to avoid any ill consequences should it happen to be the case. Inform yourself as minutely as possible from Conner and others who have been to Mississineway of the localities of the place and the situation of the Indians. The Three small Tribes which compose what they call the Miami nation were very lately assembled there viz: the Miamies proper whose residence it is, the Eel River tribe and the Wea tribe, the latter had participated in the attack upon Fort Harrison and the former in that upon Fort Wayne and their warriors have been concerned in several of the murders committed upon our citizens. There are however some of the chiefs who have undeviatingly exerted themselves to keep their warriors quiet, to preserve their friendly relations with us. This has been the case with respect to Richardville (a half French man the 2nd Chief of the Miamies) Silver Heels the White Loon certainly and perhaps of Pecon the Principal Chief of the Miamies and Charly the principal Chief of the Eel River tribe. It is not my wish that you should run any risk in saving those people but if it can be done without risk it would be extremely gratifying to me and no doubt to the President, the same remark will also apply to the sons and brothers of the Little Turtle who continued to his last moment the warm friend of the U. States and who in the course of his life rendered them many important services. Your own character as a soldier and that of the troops you command is a sure guarantee of the safety of the women and children. They will be taken however and conducted to the settlement.

Your order of march will be such as to form with facility an order of Battle to meet an attack in front flank or rear. A

principal object of your attention is the service of the guards a duty that is generally worse attended to than any other in our army. The utmost vigilance however of your guard will not afford you perfect security. Your men must at all times be kept ready for action by day as well as by night. When you advance into the enemy's country all your men must be made to lie upon their arms and with their accoutrements on. The post of each corps must also be particularly ascertained each night under every contingency that may happen. The rapid movement which will be necessary to ensure the surprise of the enemy will prevent your making an entire fortification round your camp but in dangerous situations it should be done and each night the guards should be placed in small square redoubts built of logs which can be constructed in a few moments.

Your marches should be so arranged as to get near the Town and ascertain the situation of the enemy at night and the greater the distance you encamp the night before you reach the town the less will be the probability of your being discovered, in other words the last days march must be a forced one. The Mississineway [a line gone] should your approach be undiscovered it will be necessary to divide your force so as to make a simultaneous attack upon all the principal ones at least. This will however be dangerous if the enemy should be collected or have time to collect after you are discovered. The Hostilities which have been actually committed upon us by the Miamies justify our considering them as enemies. They would not however have been attacked at this time but for the facility which their Towns affords to the other tribes to attack our settlements and the convoys of the left wing of the army. The whole of the provisions must therefore be destroyed and the towns burned. Should the Indians discover you and leave the Towns and should you not be able to come up with them but should by the capture of a woman or old man have an opportunity of sending a message to them you will please to do so informing them that if they will send in six of their principal chiefs as hostages to perform such terms as the Goveernt. may impose upon them we will cease to annoy them. There are probably some white men at Mississineway but I am uncertain whether they are citizens of the U. States or not. The safe way will be not to kill them if it can be

prevented. An old Canadian by the name of Godfrey has lived there several years and has a squaw for his wife and he is and always has been a friend of the U. States. There will be no difficulty in saving him as his house is apart from the rest. Having accomplished the object of your command in regard to the Mississineway Towns it is left to your discretion to proceed against any other Town or body of Indians which you may think yourself able to strike with effect and without incurring too much risk. A Banditti of scoundrels principally of the Potawatima tribe have for some time assembled at the White Pigeon's Village upon the headwaters of the St. Joseph of Lake Michigan and which cannot be more than fifty or sixty miles from Mississineway. An attempt to cut them off will be made, or not, from your view of its practicability from the information you may receive and the state of your command after the principal object shall be accomplished. Upon your return the cavalry will be ordered into winter quarters at Xenia the Infantry will be brought on to this place.

Some pack horses are coming from Cincinnati with Blankets. You will meet them and distribute them to your men. The commanding officers of Corps will receipt for the number they get and the receipts you will be pleased to forward to the Depty. Q. M. Genl. and direct that each man who receives one is charged with it, and his name returned to the paymaster. Your whole command will be mustered and paid at Xenia with the best wishes for your success

I am with great respect Yr. Hbl. Servt.

WM. HENRY HARRISON

HOPKINS TO GOV. SHELBY

ON WABASH, NEAR THE MOUTH OF PINE CREEK,
Nov. 27, 1812

Niles' Register III, 264

MY DEAR SIR—

By Col. Richard Taylor,[1] quartermaster general, who goes on as quick as possible to Frankfort, I have it in my power

1. Richard Taylor was one of the earliest settlers of Jefferson Co., Ky. He served through the Rev. being a colonel at its close. Came to Ky. in 1785 when the president was nine months old. He sat in the Ky. Con. Conventions 1792, and 1799 and often represented his co. in the legislature. He was the father of President Taylor. Collins, *Kentucky, 366, 368*

to give you general information of the movements of the army since my last.

On the 11th [Nov.] the army marched from Fort Harrison on the road formerly made by governor Harrison's army, and the boats set out at the same time. The length of time the enemy had expected us made it necessary to guard ourselves in an especial manner. The rise of the waters from the heavy fall of rain preceding our march, and some large creeks, left us no doubt of considerable difficulty and embarassment; insomuch that not until the 14th did we pass Sugar creek, three miles above the road.

From every information, I had no hesitation in moving on the east side of the Wabash. The Vermillions, Pine creek, and other impediments on the west side, superadded to the presumption that we were expected, and might more easily be annoyed and ambuscaded on that rout, determined me in this measure. The boats too, with our provisions of rations, forage and military store, could be more easily covered and protected, as the line of march could be invariably nearer the river. Lieutenant colonel [Philip] Barbour, with one battalion of his regiment, had command of the 7 boats, and encamped with us on the bank of the river almost every night. This so protracted our march that we did not reach the Prophet's town until he 19th. On the morning of this day I detached 300 men to surprise the Winebago town lying on Ponce Passu creek, one mile from the Wabash and four below the Prophet's Town. His party, commanded by general Butler, surrounded the place about the break of day but found it evacuated. There were in the main town about forty houses, many of them for 30 to 50 feet in length, besides many temporary huts in the surrounding prairie, in which they had cultivated a good deal of corn. On the 20th, 21st and 22d we were embarked in the complete destruction of the Prophet's town which had 40 cabins and huts, and the large Kickapoo village adjoining below it on the west side of the river, consisting of about 160 cabins and huts; finding and destroying their corn, reconnoitring the circumjacent country and constructing works for the defence of our boats and army. Seven miles east of us on the Ponce Passu creek, a party of Indians were discovered. They had fired on a small party of ours on the 21st and killed a man by the name of Dunn, a gallant soldier

in captain Duval's company. On the 22d upwards of 60 horsemen, under the command of lieutenant-colonels Miller and Wilcox, anxious to bury their comrade as well as gain a more complete knowledge of the ground, went on to a point near the Indian encampment, fell into an ambuscade, and 18 of our party killed, wounded and missing. Among these are three hopeful young officers and one private from the 8th [Wilcox's] regiment, viz. Mars, Edwards, Murray, and the private Webb, presumed to be killed; the other 14 were of the rangers. On the return of this party, and the information of a large assemblage of the enemy, who encouraged by the strength of their camp, appeared to be waiting for us, every preparation was made to march early and engage the enemy at every risque; when, from the most violent storm and fall of snow, attended with the coldest weather I every saw or felt at this season of the year, and which did not subside until the evening of the 23d, we were delayed until the 24th. Upon arriving on the ground, we found the enemy had deserted their camp before the fall of the snow, and passed the Ponce Passu. I have no doubt but their ground was the strongest I have ever seen. The deep rapid creek spoken of was in their rear, running in a semicircle, and fronted by a bluff 100 feet high, almost perpendicular and only to be penetrated by three steep ravines. If the enemy would not defend themselves here, it was evident they did not intend fighting at all. After reconnoitring sufficiently, we returned to camp, and found the ice so accumulated as to alarm us for the return of the boats. I had fully intended to have spent one more week in endeavoring to find the Indian camps; but the shoeless, shirtless state of the troops, now clad in the remnants of their summer dress; a river full of ice; the hills covered with snow; a rigid climate, and no operations; under the influence of the advice of every staff and field officer, orders were given and measures pursued for our return on the 25th.

We are now progressing to Fort Harrison through ice and snow where we expect to arrive on the last day of this month. From Vincennes I shall have the honor of addressing your excellency again; but before I close this, I cannot forbear expressing the merits of the officers and soldiers of this command. After leaving at Fort Harrison all unfit for duty we had in privates of every corps about one thousand—in the

total twelve hundred and fifty or thereabout. At the Prophet's town, upwards of one hundred of these were on the sick report. Yet sir, have we progressed in such order as to menace our enemy, free from any annoyance; seven large keel-boats have been conveyed and protected to a point heretofore unknown in Indian expeditions; three large Indian establishments have been burnt and destroyed, with near three miles of fences (and all the corn, &c. we could find) besides many smaller ones; the enemy have been sought in their strong holds, and every opportunity afforded them to attack or alarm us; a march on the east side of the Wabash, without road or cognizance of the country, fully one hundred miles perfected; and this has been done with a naked army of infantry, aided by only about fifty rangers and spies. All this was done in twenty days—no sigh, no murmur, no complaint.

I certainly feel particular obligations to my friend general Butler and colonel [Richard] Taylor, for their effectual and ready aid in their line; as also to captain Z. Taylor, of the seventh United States regiment; Messrs. Gist and Richeson, my aids-de-camp, and major J. C. Breckenridge, my secretary, for a prompt and effectual support in every instance. The firm and almost unparallelled defence of Fort Harrison, by captain Z. Taylor, has raised for him a fabric of character not to be effaced by my eulogy. To cononel [Philip] Barbour, for his officer-like management, in conducting and commanding the boats, my thanks are due, as also to colonels Miller and Wilcox, and to major Hughes and Shacklet, and to the captain and subalterns of the army generally. From lieutenants Richeson, Hawkins and Sullivan of the United States troops, I have to acknowledge my obligations for their steady and uniform conduct, as well as captain [Parmenius] Beckes, of the rangers, captain Washburn, of the spies and the staff generally.

Let me refer your excellency to colonel Taylor for more minute information; and believe me with high regard and consideration, to be, your most obedient servant.

SAMUEL HOPKINS

Statement of Robert Dickson

Montreal Dec. 3, 1812

Mich. Hist. & Pioneer Soc. XV, 193

Having obtained a supply of merchandize at St. Josephs from the Montreal merchants, I left that place in the latter end of August 1811 and notwithstanding the impediments thrown in my way by the American Government, I was fortunate enough to reach the country where I successfully carried on my trade.

During the winter I found the Agents of the American Government using every means in their power to influence the Indians in their behalf, by making them unusual presents of goods and inviting them in the most pressing manner to visit the President of the United States at Washington, where it was held out to them, they would hear something of the utmost importance.

From these circumstances I was inclined to believe that something hostile was meditated against our Govt. and being the only individual in that country possessed of the means of frustrating their intentions I took such steps as I trust will be approved of by His Excellency the Commander in Chief.

The Calamitous state of the Indian Tribes at that time was peculiarly distressing, the crops of those who cultivate the ground having failed from the great drought of the preceding summer; and owing to the same cause those who subsisted entirely by the chace were deprived of provisions, the large animals having gone northwards in quest of food.

I left the River Mississippi on my return to St. Josephs with a number of Indians after having supplied their families with ammunition and provisions at a great expence I was met at the Portage of the Ouisconsing by two Courriers from Amherstburg with a communication from general Brock, in consequence of which I sent a party of Indians from Labaye to Amherstburg where they remained during the Summer and were in every engagement with the Enemy.

I forbear entering into any detail respecting the Indians who accompanied me as I presume that their conduct has already been made known to His Excellency the Commander in Chief.

A Statement of Expenses incurred for the above purposes is here subjoined.

1812 July 20

To amount of Robert Dickson & Co's account of sundries furnished to Scioux, Follesavoine and Winibago Indians p. account herewith No. 1	20973	0	0
To paid Francis Boutellier for sundries at Prairie du Chiens for do. p. acct. No. 2 $995 0	5970	0	0
To paid Pierre Grignon for funds for do. p. acct. No. 3	624	0	0
To cash pr Louis Grignon for one ox for do	300	0	0
To cash pr. Dr. Mitchell for provisions for do	876	0	0
To cash pr Paul Ducharme for an ox for do	300	0	0
To amount of Jacob Franks account of sundries for said Indians pr acct. No. 4	12130	18	0
To cash pr Lewis Crawford for provisions for said Indians at St. Josephs 7 voucher $5	350	0	0
To Robert Dickson & Co. disbursements for said Indians at Michillimackinac p. account No. 6	3483	0	0
Livres	45006	18	0
Hx Curry	-1875	5	0

R. Dickson

Harrison to Secretary of War

(No. 23)

Head Quarters N. W. Army Delaware,
11th December 1812

Har. Pa. 788-790

Sir:

I have appointed Mr. John C. Bartlett to do the duties of field-Commissary to receive and account for all the provisions which have been purchased for the United States. Such an officer was indispensible. Mr. [Henry] Clay will inform you of the high standing of Mr. Bartlett.

The Contractors having failed to make the Deposit of provisions at Upper Sandusky or even to provide for the daily issues here & at that place. I have been obliged to direct Mr. Bartlett to supply the deficiencies by other contracts, which he has effected. The sums necessary will be raised by Drafts on your Department, to be charged to Major White. Mr. Bartlett has entered into bond with security which will be forwarded in a dispatch which I shall forward tomorrow.

I have promised Mr. Bartlett the pay & emoluments of a Deputy Quarter Master.

I have the honor to remain With great respect
Yr Hble Sevt.

Willm. Henry Harrison

The Honble W. Eustis Esq *Secretary of War*

Return of Cannon, Gun Carriages & Destined for the N. W. Army under the care of Captain CHARLES GRATIOTT of the Engineers

8½ miles west of N. Lisbon (Ohio) Dec. 2, 1812	Brass 12 pounders	Iron 6 pounders	5 inch Howitzer	18 pound carriages	12 pound carriages	6 pound carriages	5½ Inch Howitzer Carriages	Traveling Forges	Ammunition Waggon	Small covered Waggon	Large covered Waggons	Gun with tacle & Block	Horses
Fit for use.....	2	4	1	5	2	10	....	2	1	5	29	1	304
Unfit for use....	....	....	....	....	8	....	3	....	....	....	....	....	....
Total.....	2	4	1	5	10	10	3	2	1	5	29	1	304

Signed

C. GRATIOTT Capt. Engineers

Note:

The Gun Carriages marked unfit for use were made in Pittsburgh for Government some years since & rejected as being incapable of service from which time they have been (as I am informed) exposed to the weather and are now so rotted that the axeltrees and Limber Hounds of some of them break whenever the carriage receives any considerable jolt.

C. GRATIOTT *Capt. of Engs.*

Extract of a Letter from Col. [James] Morrison, Deputy Q. Master Genl. "We shall soon be out of Cash. I shall send Harmon in a few days to Cincinnati, but expect from Mr. Baum's letter that they will soon refuse purchasing my drafts. He says that the 200,000 dollars will scarcely be felt that they have already advanced to other agents of Government upwards of 50,000 dollars, and I have had even a larger sum, and were I to hazard an opinion there must be due on the Centre line and left Wing more than $60,000. So then *my* good Sir, be explicit in your Requisitions on this subject to the Secretary of War, for believe me unless arrangements are immediately made by that Gentleman all your efforts will be paralized when you may be on the eve of accomplishing the object of the Campaign."

THOMAS BODLEY TO HARRISON

(Copy)

FORT BARBEE ST. MARYS Dec. 11, 1812

Har. Pa. 803-806

DEAR GENERAL

A few days ago our prospects here was truly flattering, every one appeared in high spirits and much gratified at the appearance of sending on provisions & by water but the scene is sadly changed. Our most sanguine hopes are blasted and the chance of forwarding supplies to the advanced parts of the army is gloomy indeed. On the 4th Inst we started from this place a large boat and 16 perogues loaded with flour &c. The water was in fine order and we took advantage of the first chance of sailing. No time was lost. On the 7 two large boats sailed with a fine flood, the whole freighted 398 Bbl. Flour, 32 Bbl. Whiskey, 72 Bbl. Salt, 20 kegs powder, 10 kegs lead, 1 box Cannister shot, 2 boxes clothing, 150 cannon ball, 10 bushel oats and a quantity of hospital stores (of which Dr. Taylor has the invoice) 5 bars Iron, 5 Bars steel and 3 coils rope. In addition to these stores about 700 hogs have been sent to Fort Winchester last week and this, on foot, and a quantity of flour, whisky, salt and clothing has been sent down the Auglize from Forts Amanda and Jennings in perogues and on rafts. Col. [Robert] Pogue took advantage of the rise of water and as he had not time to prepare perogues he fitted out two rafts and loaded them with whiskey and salt in tight barrels. I have not heard how they got on but am in hopes they will get down safe. In this situation we were all highly gratified with the result of our united exertions in getting off such quantities of supplies. Nothing that could be done was omitted, all concerned united their efforts in the common cause and no doubt was entertained of success until yesterday about noon when unfortunately a messenger arrived with information that the last boats were stopped by the ice below this about 40 miles by water and about 12 by land, that they had used every exertion but could proceed no further and in the evening an express arrived from the first boats that they had got to Shane's Crossing[1] about 60 miles by water

1. Shane's Crossing was at what is now Rockford, Mercer Co., O. It was named from Anthony Shane, a French trader (Shesne in French) who lived there on a section of land presented him by the U. S. in recognition of his services to General Wayne. Griswold, *Fort Wayne, 220*

and 18 by land from this place where they were frozen up and no possibility of their getting on. You may judge of our surprise and mortification. The first boats were commanded by Capt. Jordan of Col. [Joshua] Barbee's Regt. and Mr. McClosky Asst. Q. M. at this place went with them to take charge of the cargo &c. The Last were commanded by Mr. Allen both fleets had the best crews we could select. They were all volunteers and no set of men ever exerted themselves more than these have done on this occasion. Mr. McClosky is an experienced water-man, him and many of the crew were often in the water and sometimes risqued their lives. He got in here last night very much fatigued and almost exhausted. There was no alternative left but to make arrangements to secure the craft and property, which Col. Barbee has this morning taken every necessary step to effect. Capt. Jordan's Company remain with the first boats & Capt. McNair is sent to the last, with directions to build storehouses &. The roads are so extremely bad and the water have been so high as to render it impossible for waggons or horses to travel, not a waggon has arrived at this place for two weeks and but few pack horses & those returning from the advanced posts. The St. Mary's is so extremely crooked and so blocked up with Driftwood in many places where it is out of the bank and overflowed for miles. In short turns the slush-ice has collected and frozen solid so as to dam it up for miles. Consequently nothing but a general thaw or hard rains can give us the benefit of the navigation of this stream. Of course some other means of transportation must be resorted to.

Permit me again to suggest the propriety of an establishment at Wapaghkennetta or of having the supplies sent to Fort Amanda [on the Auglaize]. The Auglaise is much straighter has more water and will not freeze up so soon as the St. Mary's. Sleds and pack horses are now the only means of transportation. A number of active strong draft horses for sleds and some pack horses could be very usefully employed from Piqua to Fort Amanda. I have engaged flats to be built at both crossings of Lorimie's and at this place. It is now freezing very hard and I hope the roads may soon be travelled. I will write to Col. [James] Morrison fully on these subjects.

Col. Pogue and this Regt. have erected the best fort on these waters, at Amanda, and in very little time. They de-

serve much praise. Your approbation and notice of their conduct would be extremely pleasing to them.

I have wrote Genl. Winchester by express this morning and hasten to give you this without delay.

Present me to my friends at Head Quarters and particularly those in your own family. I should be glad to hear from you. I have the honor to be yr. friend and Hble. Servt.

THOS. BODLEY *Acting Q. Master N. W. Army*

P. S. Some of the Paymasters will not receive the Indian goods and others wish to return what they have recd. will you be so good as to direct what is to be done with those not used. T. B.

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 24)

HEAD QUARTERS N. W. ARMY DELAWARE 12th Decr. 1812

Har. Pa. 791-798

SIR.

Since I had the Honor to write to you on the 17th Ultimo [see above] every exertion has been made and every Engine put into operation to procure and forward Supplies for the Army to the advance posts. The difficulties which have and which are still to be encountered in this business are almost insuperable but they are opposed with unabated firmness and zeal. The greatest obstacle to our Success is the want of forage which for this line we are now obliged to bring from the Neighbourhood of Chillicothe at an expense which can scarcely be conceived. Genl. [Simon] Perkins informs me that two men have lately arrived at his Camp from Detroit and from them he learned that the British had taken from the Inhabitants of the Michigan Territory everything which they deemed surplus provisions leaving the Inhabitants scarcely enough to live on. I fear too that they have taken all the Corn from the Rapids, as neither Genl Winchester nor Gen. Perkins made any effectual attempt to interrupt them. General Perkins has been able to save between two and three thousand Bushels of Corn at lower Sandusky—and there are persons actively employed at and about Cleveland procuring everything that will answer for the sustenance of Man or beast to be sent on in Boats as long as the lake remains open and when it Freezes, upon sleds which are preparing. I received

letters from St. Mary's under date of the *1st* of this month, at that time the Waters were all in a navigable State, boats and Perogues were loading at St. Mary's and a number of others coming up the Auglaize to load at Tawa Town. Had the open Weather continued but four or five [days] longer Gen Winchester would have received from one thousand to fifteen hundred Barrels of flour by this time, but I fear that the hard Frosts which we have had for some days past will prevent the Boats from returning and possibly the General from descending to the Rapids to which he was directed immediately to proceed. Gen. Perkins is at lower Sandusky with all his Brigade. A Battallion of the Pennsylvania Troops reached upper Sandusky yesterday with the 21 pieces of Artillery brought on by Lieutenant [Levi] Hukill. The sending them from Mansfield with so small a force was extremely injudicious upon the part of Gen. Crooks. I directed another Regiment to follow them but as they may not arrive for several days I shall send on to day some Companies of the Virginia Brigade and shall follow myself the day after. The Virginia Brigade has been here since the 5th Ultimo they were detained for the want of Blankets which reached them only last Evening. But from the failure of the Contractor in providing the means, or subsisting them at Sandusky they could not have marched unless the provisions purchased by the United States Commissary had been issued to them. Major [Ebenezer] Denny and his agents have not acquitted themselves as they might have done, in upwards of two months they have procured and forwarded not more than 1,000 Barrels of Flour. The last accounts from the lakes were not very flattering, seven or eight hundred Barrels were scattered in small parcels below Cleveland, a part of it has probably reached Sandusky but the severe weather which we have had for some days has no doubt interrupted the Navigation. I beg leave to call your attention to the enclosed Extract of a letter from Col. [James] Morrison [see Dec. 11 above] I fear that the Expenses of this Army will greatly exceed the calculations of the Government. The prodigious destruction of Horses can only be conceived by those who have been accustomed to Military Operations in a Wilderness in the Winter Season. The fine teams which arrived on the 10th Inst. at Sandusky with the artillery are entirely worn down and two trips from Mc-

Arthur's block House (our nearest deposit to the Rapids) will completely destroy a Brigade of Pack Horses.

Should I be able to get one Million or even 800,000 Rations of Flour at the Rapids and the Weather is severe enough to freeze the Straight the object of the Campaign can still be accomplished. A few Horses would be sufficient to take on the Supplies and Baggage upon the ice and if the Straight freezes I should be enabled to sit down before Malden (without going to Detroit) in six days from my leaving the Rapids. If on the contrary the Straight does not freeze (which is frequently the case) the difficulty of crossing will be very considerable and it will require much time to build Boats to effect the passage. All that could be done then would be the recovery of Detroit until later in February or perhaps the middle of March. The Government will determine whether that object is of sufficient importance to induce them to bear the Expense which will attend the prosecution of the Campaign at this Season. If there were not some important political reasons urging the recovery of the Michigan Territory and the Capture of Malden as soon as those objects can possibly be effected and that to accomplish them a few weeks sooner expense was to be disregarded, I should not hesitate to say that if a small proportion of the sums which will be expended in the Quarter Master's Department in the active prosecution of the Campaign during the Winter was devoted to the obtaining the command of lake Erie the wishes of the Government in their utmost extent could be accomplished without difficulty in the months of April and May. Malden, Detroit and Mackinac would fall in rapid succession. On the contrary all that I can certainly promise to be accomplished during the Winter, unless the Straight should afford us a passage upon the ice is to recover Detroit. I must further observe that no military man would think of retaining Detroit (Malden being in possession of the Enemy) unless his army was at least twice as strong as the disposable force of the Enemy. An Army advancing to Detroit along a line of Operation passing so near the principal force of the Enemy as to allow them access to it whenever they think proper must be covered by another Army more considerable than the disposable force of the Enemy. I mention this circumstance to show that the attack ought not to be directed against Detroit but against Malden and that it

depends upon the ice affording a safe passage across the Straight whether I shall be able to proceed that way or not. Detroit is not tenable. Were I to take it without having it in my power to occupy the opposite shore I should be reduced to the necessity of hiding the army in the adjacent swamps to preserve it from the effect of the Shot and Shells which the Eenemy would throw with impunity from the opposite shore. This result is so obvious to every man who has the least Military information, that it appears to me as extraordinary as any other part of Gen. Hull's conduct that he should choose to defend Detroit rather than attack Malden. There is another circumstance Sir, which will claim attention. Admitting that Malden and Detroit are taken Macinac and St. Joseph will remain in the hands of the Enemy until we can create a force capable of contending with the Vessels which the British have in lake Michigan and which they will be enabled to maintain there as long as the Canoe route by Grand River and lake Nipissing shall remain open and for six months after.

I have conceived it proper, Sir, to lay these statements before you. If it should be asked why they were not made sooner, I answer that altho' I was always sensible that there were great difficulties to be encountered in the accomplishment of the wishes of the President in relation to the recovery of Detroit and the conquest of the adjacent part of upper Canada in the manner proposed I did not make sufficient allowance for the imbecility and incompetence of the public agents and the Villainy of the Contractors. I am still however very far from believing that the original Object is impracticable. I believe on the contrary it can be effected and as I know that my personal fame is materially interested in its success in the manner first proposed my feelings are all engaged in opposition to any delay. But I should illy deserve the confidence of the people or the President if I were capable of being influenced by a private consideration to withhold from the Government any statement which might throw light upon the operations of an army the success of which is so important to the Character as well as the interest of the Country. If it would be the determination to disregard expense and to push on the operation of the Army in the manner they have been commenced the President may rely upon the Exertions of the Troops which I shall employ in the final Effort. I shall

be much disappointed if I cannot select three or four thousand men from the army who will do as much as the same number of men in a similar state of discipline ever did do. If the plan of acquiring the naval superiority on the Lakes before the attempt is made on Malden or Detroit should be adopted, I would place 1500 men at the Miami Rapids (Defiance would be better if the Troops had not advanced from thence) retain about 1000 men to be distributed in different garrisons, accumulate provisions at St. Mary's, Tawa Town, Upper Sandusky, Cleveland and Presquille and employ the Dragoons and mounted Infantry in desultory Expeditions against the Indians. The Villages south of lake Michigan might be struck with effect by making a deposit of Corn and provisions at Fort Wayne.

Col. [John B.] Campbell marched from Franklinton with the Detachment destined to destroy the Miami Villages on the Ultimo. His troops were mustered and paid at Xenia and left Dayton on the 9th Instant. I have the Honor to enclose you an Extract of a letter from him of the 6th Inst. describing his situation and prospects. There never was a finer body of men. I also enclose the orders given to him which I hope will meet with your approbation. [see Nov. 25 above]

I am much disappointed in the Artillery which has been sent on. There are in all twenty eight pieces of which 10 are six and 10 twelve pounders, the former are nearly useless. I had five before and if I had 100 I should only take three or four with me. You will perceive by the return of Capt. [Charles] Gratiott which is enclosed that all the Carriages for the Howitzers and 8 out of 10 of those for the twelve pounders are unfit for use.

Since I began this I have received a letter from Cleveland. The assistant Quarter Master there has been very successful in procuring forage. Better news I could scarcely have received

I have the Honor to be With great Respect
Your Humble Sevt

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble WILLIAM EUSTIS, *Secy of war*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 25)

HEAD QUARTERS DELAWARE Dec 13th 1812

Har. Pa. 799, 800

SIR

I have the honor to enclose you a list of the appointments which I have made of Staff officers for the North Western Army. The list of Quarter Masters was given to Col. [James] Morrison who informed me that he could not get through with the duties of his office without them until the Supplies for the army are all procured and the army itself more consentrated when he will have it in his power to dismiss half of them. I am clearly of opinion that those appointments will not only promote the public service but will prove to have been proper on the score of economy. In my letter of the 11th [see above] I mentioned the Appointment of Mr. [John C.] Bartlett as field Commissary. I knew that there was no Law authorizing expressly such an appointment but as the Provisions purchased by the Commissaries of purchases there must be some one to receive and issue them, if subordinate agents had been appointed at each post without a head to whom they should account the Public would have been defrauded and the accounts have exhibited a chaos which could never have been understood or arranged. This officer will receive the provisions from all the purchasing Agents. He will so arrange them as to have a regular supply of all the articles that compose the Ration at every place where they are issued. He will receive my orders for Deposits and will at all times be ready to lay before me a complete view of the State of the Supplies. Mr. Bartlett is a man of talents wealth and respectable connections.

Govr. Shelby having applied to me to determine whether the 3d Regiment of Ky. Volunteers that serve under Genl. Hopkins should be dismissed I have directed it to be done except one Batallion which are to be retained and placed under the command of Col. Wm. Russell. I have more militia than I want. The Pennsyl. Brigade manifests so much insubordination that If I were not affraid of wounding the reputation of the State, I would dismiss them *en masse,* but I shall cer-

tainly be obliged to dismiss a part of the Troops and those that are least useful, must be first sent off.

I have the honor to be with great respect Yr. Hb. Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Hon. WM. EUSTIS. *Secty of War*

A list of Staff appointments made by Genl. WM. HARRISON, *Com. N. W. Army*

1812—Octo 27	John J. Wills	Division J. Adv.
1812—Nov. 18	Robert D. Richardson	Dpy. Comiss. of Ordn.
18	Charles Madiss	Conduct. of Artillery
24	John C. Bartlett	Field Comissy. Genl.
27	James T. Eubank	Depy. Qr. Masters
	A. D. Orr	
	Hubbard Taylor	
	Thomas H. Pendall	
	Jacob Fowler	
	James McCluspy	as. Dy. Qr. Mr.
	John C. Paine	
	Benjamin Gardner	
	James R. Curry	
	Daniel Mayo	
Dec. 3rd	L. Hukill U. S. army ap.	Dy. Ajd. Genl
" "	Ensign Charley L. Todd	J. Advocate to the left wing N. W. army with the pay & emoluments of J. Advocate

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No 26)

HEAD QUARTERS DELAWARE 14th Dec. 1812

Har. Pa. 801-802

SIR:

I neglected in my last to mention a circumstance which reflects much Honor on the bravery of the Shawanoe Chief Logan who has fallen a victim to his zeal for our cause. I had sent him with a reconnoitring party to the Rapids of Miami. They were pursued so closely by the hostile Indians that they were obliged to separate. Logan with two of his men reached General Winchester's Camp from which he again proceeded

towards the Rapids. They soon fell in with a reconnoitring party of the Enemy consisting of a British Officer, the celebrated Potawatimie Chief Winemack and another Chief and three men of the same tribe. Logan had the address to persuade them they were Friends until he got an opportunity to attack them to advantage when he succeeded in killing the officer, Winimac the other [Ottawa] Chief and one of the Warriors. Logan himself was shot through the body and one of his men [Bright Horn] through the thigh. They succeeded however in seizing the Horses of their enemies with which in four Hours they rode 20 miles to General Winchester's Camp where Logan expired on the following day with as much heroism according to the General's account as ever was exhibited. He has left a wife and several children under the guardianship of Major Hardin of the Kentucky Troops who has sent them to that State. I have promised the Chiefs of the Tribe to recommend them to the protection of the government.[1]

I have received information that four or five hundred Indians have been placed by the British with considerable supplies in an old stockade work which was erected by a Detachment of our Troops some years ago on Swan Creek below the Miami Rapids. I think it no difficult matter to cut off their retreat with a part of General Winchesters command unless the latter has advanced to the Rapids and they have abandoned their position. I have not heard from the general for eighteen or twenty days. I shall go forward and send an express through the woods directing him if he has not reached the rapids to make a detachment to his left towards the head of Swan creek whilst his main body shall advance to the Rapids. The position occupied by the Indians is a complete *cul de sac* unless Swan Creek (which is fifteen feet deep for many miles) is frozen over. I calculate upon Col. [John B.] Campbells arrival at Mississiniway about this day. Never was there a finer time for such an enterprize, dry weather, snow on the ground (which will make it impossible for the enemy to secret themselves) and the moon in such a state as to permit night marches.

1. For a more detailed account of this exploit see McAfee, *The Late War* 172. Captain Jonny and Brighthorn were with Logan. The British officer was the eldest son of Colonel Elliott of the British army. Captain John scalped the dead Indians and came leisurely into camp. The Hardin here mentioned was the son of Col. John Hardin who had captured Logan in 1789. Logan's family was not taken to Ky.

New contracts have been made for filling all the deficiencies of White [contractor] and some others made for delivering flour at the Rapids. I have so many engines in operation for forwarding provisions that I can scarcely believe in a possibility of our not having a sufficiency.

I am very Respectfully D. Sir Your Huml. Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble. WILLIAM EUSTIS Esqr. *Secy of War*

CAMPBELL TO HARRISON

CAMP on the MISSISSINAWAY two miles above SILVER HEELS TOWN Dec. 18, 1812

Har. Pa. 809-810

DEAR GENL.

After a fatiguing march of three days and one night from Greenville I arrived with the Detachment under my command at a Town on the Mississinaway (thought by the spies to be Silver Heels Town, but proved to be a Town settled by a mixture of Delaware and Miami Indians) about eight oclock on the morning of the 17th undiscovered. A charge was made on the Towns when many fled over the River, others surrendered, those who fled, made resistance after crossing, by firing across the River. Thirty-seven prisoners are taken, whom I shall bring in with me, including men women and children, seven warriors killed. After disposing of the prisoners I marched a part of the detachment down the river, and burned three villages without resistance. I then returned, and encamped on the ground where stood the first village attacked. This morning about daylight, or a little before, my Camp was attacked by a party of Indians (the number unknown but supposed to be between two and three hundred) on my right line occupied by Major [James V.] Balls squadron, who gallantly resisted them for about three quarters of an hour when the Indians retreated; after being most gallantly charged by Captn. [George] Trotter, at the head of his troop of cavalry, we have lost in the first action one killed and one wounded (by accident the last) in the action of this morning we have eight killed and about twenty five or thirty wounded (not having yet gotten a report I am unable to state the number exactly.) The Indians have lost about forty killed, from the discoveries now made. The spies are out at preseent ascertain-

ing the number. I have sent to Greenville for a reinforcement, and send you this hasty sketch a detailed report shall be hereafter made to you, noticing particularly those companies and individuals, who have distinguished themselves signally. I anticipate another attack before I reach Greenville, but rest assured my Dear General they shall be warmly received. I have a detachment composed of the bravest fellows, boath officers and soldiers, in the world, our return will be commenced this morning among our killed I have to deplore the loss of the brave Capt. [Bennoni] Pierce, Lieut. [Daniel] Waltz of Captain [Abraham] Markle's troops of cavalry, is also mortally wounded, their gallant conduct shall be noticed hereafter.

Yours with the greatest respt. and esteem.

JOHN B. CAMPBELL *Lt. Col. 19th U. S. Reg.*

Genl. WILLIAM H. HARRISON *Commdg. N. W. Army*

PROCLAMATION CONVENING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

December 18, 1812

Western Sun, December 26, 1812

Whereas, circumstances require that the Legislature of the Territory should be convened: I have therefore thought proper to appoint, and do by these presents appoint, Monday the first day of February next for the meeting of the same; and the members of the Legislative Council and of the House of Representatives, and each and every of them, are required to give their attendance on that day accordingly, at the town of Vincennes.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Territory, at Vincennes, this 18th day of December, in the year of our Lord 1812, and of the Independence of the United States the thirty-seventh.

JOHN GIBSON, [*Acting Governor*]

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 27)

HEAD QUARTERS N. W. Army
UPPER SANDUSKY Dec. 21st 1812

Har. Pa. 807-808

SIR:

I have the Honor to enclose you a copy of a letter received last evening from Major [Thomas] Bodley [see Dec. 11 above] the acting Quarter Master to the left wing of the army

by which you will perceive that all our hopes of getting on a large supply of provision and stores by the means of the Auglaize and St. Marys have been disappointed by a sudden and uncommon freesing of those rivers when in the finest state for navigation. By a letter received from Gen. Winchester of the 10th I learn also that his last barrel of flour has been issued to his Troops. They cannot however suffer much as the large supplies sent down the Auglaize from Fort Amanda (Tawa Town) if they have not reached him could not be at any very great distance from Defiance. The unfortunate freesing has however obliged me to abandon all Idea of Getting any assistance in accomplishing the final object of the campaign from the Troops of that Wing or the very large supplies which have been collected at Piqua and St. Marys. I shall determine in the course of the day upon the propriety of dismissing the greater part of the Kentucky Troops and, by redoubling my exertions in this direction, prepare for occupying the Miami Rapids and advancing to Malden with a force less than half of what was at first intended. They will however be choice spirits and the Government may rely that whatever success may attend us the honor of the American Arms will at least be supported. Capt. [Charles] Gratiott has not yet got on nor have I heard any thing from him since he left Canton. Blankets and Shoes are beginning to arrive and the clothing for the regular troops is coming up the Scioto, it will however be a considerable time before it can reach them. I have not heard, of the woollen overalls and jackets (so long ago ordered by you in Philadelphia) having reached Pittsburg. The militia too are many of them naked and some corps from that cause remarkably sickly. General [Edward] Tupper reports 260 out of 700 to be unfit for duty out of his Brigade.

I had neglected to inform you on the 18th of November I accepted the resignation of Ensign Daniel D. Armstrong and on the 4th of this Inst. that of Ensign John E. Morgan both of the 19th Regiment. The former was charged with crimes for which he would have been cashiered. His youth and inexperience and the intercession of Gov. Meigs induced me to suffer him to resign.

I have the Honor to be with great respect sir your obt. sevt

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble W. EUSTIS Esqr. *Secy of War*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT Dec. 21, 1812

Har. Pa. 41

General WM. H. HARRISON.

SIR:

The difficulties attending the transportation of Specie to the Western Country render it expedient to require of the agents authorized by you to draw bills on this Department to dispose of them as far as practicable, to individuals, who wish to make remittances to the Atlantic States, and you will please to give directions accordingly.

J. M.

ROBERT DICKSON TO GEN. GEO. PREVOST

Dec. 23, 1812

Mich. Hist. & Pioneer Soc. Pub. XV, 208

In the prosecution of the war, if the active cooperation of the Indian Tribes is required, the subscriber begs leave to suggest the following remarks.

A large Wampum Belt with proper designations & an appropriate speech, encouraging a general and spirited combination, among the different Indian tribes, to be immediately forwarded.

Chicago and La Baye [Green Bay, Wis.] are the fit places of rendezvous for the Western Indians in the Spring—provisions must be provided at these places, Canoes can be got at La Baye, part of the force to go to York by water, the remainder by land to Detroit if necessary a junction can be effected at Niagara.

A person must be fully authorized to order from His Majesty's Indian Stores, what may be requisite for the Indians with the knowledge of the officer commanding.

Twenty young men as Interpreters, and officers will be wanted, what ever pay may be allowed them for their services, let the payment be prompt.

A Commission from His Excellency the Commander in Chief, of the nature he chuses to be given to the person who shall command the Western Indians.

Would it not be proper to raise a body of men English & Canadians now in the Indian Country as Rangers to act with the Indians to consist of from one to two Hundred.

One silk Standard & one large medal to be got for each Tribe.

An Express to be sent to Michillimackinac, to order necessaries for the Indians to be forwarded to the portage of the Ouisconsin and Chicago, as early in the Spring as possible.

Should it meet His Excellency the Commander in Chief's approbation the subscriber intends without delay, setting out for the Mississippi by the route of Montreal, Kingston, York, Niagara, Amherstburg, Detroit, St. Josephs on Lake Michigan, Chicago, Rock River. On his way he will dispatch courriers when required, he hopes to reach the Mississippi about the end of February, which will enable him to collect the Indians on the west of that River.

Amable Chevallier, an Ottawa Indian, will be wanted for the voyage, he is an intelligent & useful man.

If the services of Capt. Morton at Niagara can be dispensed with it is necessary he should accompany the subscriber as far as Amherstburg.

The Indians will hold out to the Americans that they must retire within the boundary Line, as settled by Wayne's Treaty, else everything within the line will be destroyed.

The above is submitted, for the consideration of His Excellency the Commander in Chief—by—his most devoted most obedient and

very humble Servant.

ROBERT DICKSON

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

HEADQUARTERS UPPER SANDUSKY December 24th 1812

Har. Pa. 811, 812

SIR:

I have great satisfaction in communicating the enclosed copy of a letter from Lieut. Col. [John B.] Campbell to you who commanded the Detachment which was sent to destroy the Mississinaway Towns. Capt. [Lewis] Hite who brought it informed me that Col. Campbell had learnt from one of the Prisoners, that Tecumseh was on the Wabash not more than eighteen miles below our Troops with six hundred Warriors. If this should be the case I entertain some apprehension for the safety of our detachment on its return encumbered as it is with wounded and prisoners. Eighty or ninety of the Ohio

Militia however marched from Greenville on the 20th Inst. to reinforce Col. Campbell, and his original command merits the approbation he bestows upon it. The Captain [Bennoni] Pearce who was killed commanded a Troop of Dragoons from this State. Lieut. [Daniel] Waltz belonged to the Troop of twelve months Dragoons from Pennsylvania and Capt. [George] Trotter of the Kentucky Dragoons who distinguished himself is my aid de camp, whom I permitted at his desire to head his troop upon this command.

I have further the satisfaction to inform you Sir, that I have ascertained that the British and Indians were not able to take off the corn from the Rapids of Miami and I assure you that they shall not have another opportunity of removing it.

I have the Honor to be with great Respect Your Obt. Servt.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

The Honble WILLIAM EUSTIS *Esqr. Secy. of War*

CAMPBELL TO HARRISON

FORT GREENVILLE 25th December 1812

Har. Pa. 820-835

I left this place on my march out on the 14th with six hundred rank and file which number was reduced on my march by the return of some who became sick. My first order of march was in five columns Col. [James] Simralls regiment in two on the left, the Infantry in one in the center and Major [James V.] Ball's squadron in two on the right. There were also strong front, rear and flank guards, who marched at a distance from the columns of from two to four hundred yards as the ground would permit.

From the flank guards I ordered small parties occasionally to examine the country to the right and left and report to me whether they had made any discoveries. My encampments were in a square form covering ground sufficient to embrace the horses within the first line of fires, without being crowded. I had a second line of fires made around the Camp at the distance of sixty yards, outside of which and opposite to each angle of the Camp a redoubt was constructed in which the guards were placed, the want of axes prevented me from making the outer fires and constructing the redoubts as well as I wished. I had one third of the men on guard every night and

formed a chain of centinels around the camp so close that the enemy could not possibly penetrate without being discovered. At day light each morning I sent out parties to patrole at a considerable distance from Camp. I found it necessary in a day or two to vary my order of march and directed the infantry and riflemen to march in two columns one on each side of the road. The pack horses and baggage, as also the detachment staff in the road between them. Major Balls squadron in four columns on the right and Colo. Simralls Regiment in four on the left. The flank columns served as guards. in this way I found I marched with more ease. I then dispensed with the taps of the drum and sound of the trumpet which in my first order of march was necessary. I further ordered that if an attack was made on the march and in front the troops would immediately form in order of Battle by filing up on the left and dressing by the front of columns, if on either flank the flank columns would face outwards and make resistance untill reinforced. If in the rear the rear guard would face to the right about and make resistance, whilst the other columns would file up and wheeling to the right about form in succession on the left in line, the officers leading columns taking especial care to march at sufficient distances from each other to form in line in open order dressing by the center. If the attacking was made in camp the Troops would immediately form in the rear of their fires, which would be extinguished as soon as possible by throwing it out in front. I ordered the Guards if attacked to stand their ground as long as possible and then retreat through the angle of the camp nearest them, there form, defend the angle if attacked if not to wait for orders. These form my disposable force. The weather tho' cold and the snow deep, was however well calculated to favour our enterprize and I determined to make forced marches to avoid if possible a discovery. On the march I occasionally formed in order of Battle to accustom the troops to it. They formed with the utmost celerity and in good order. the first two days I marched forty miles, the third day I pushed the troops as much as they could bear, marched the whole night altho' excessively cold stopping twice to refresh and warm. This day and night we marched forty miles. early in morning of the 17th I reached undiscovered an Indian town on the Mississinaway inhabited by a mixture of Delawares and Miamies. The troops rushed into the town killed eight warriors and took

forty two prisoners eight of whom are warriors the residue women and children. I ordered the town to be immediately burnt a house or two excepted in which I confined the prisoners and I ordered the cattle and other stock to be shot. I then left the infantry to guard the prisoners and with Simrall's and Balls Dragoons advanced to some Miami villages a few miles lower down the Mississinaway, but found them evacuated by all but a sick squaw whom we left in her house. I burnt on this excursion three considerable villages, took several horses and killed a great many cattle, and returned to the town I first burnt where I had left the prisoners and encamped. My camp was in the usual form but covered more ground than common. The Infantry and Riflemen were on the front line, Capt. [Wilson] Elliott's company on the right, [Capt. James R.] Buttler's[1] in the centre and Alexander's on

1. For accounts of this family of soldiers see *Penn. Mag. of History VII, 1-10.* Gen. Richard Butler served during the Revolution under Morgan and was killed at St. Clair's Defeat; James R. was his son, Col. Robt. Butler, Jackson's chief of staff at New Orleans and Gen. W. O. Butler who fought in the Mexican war were of the family. See also *The Historical Register, Jan. 1883.* Harrison's appreciation is expressed in the following letter.

NORTH BEND, OHIO, Nov. 26th, 1820

Dear Sir:

I have been informed that Capt. James R. Butler of Pittsburgh is a candidate for an office in your gift. As this gentleman served in the army commanded by me in the late war & under my immediate view I have deemed it incumbent on me to state to you my opinion of his conduct & merits. A soldier yourself you will not hesitate to acknowledge the claims which disinterested, laborious and successful services in the field give to a candidate on an occasion of this kind—that those by whose exertion & dangers our country has been brought to repose in peace & prosperity, should share the bounties which the administrators of that country's government are authorized to bestow. Admitting this as I am certain you will, I can assure you that Capt. Butler's pretentions to your favor will be exceeded by none that will contend for it.

The captain joined the North Western army early in the winter preceding Hull's surrender at the head of a Company of Volunteer Light Infantry raised and disciplined by himself and engaged for a twelve month tour. It is no disparagement to other corps of this description to say that none that ever came under my notice could at all compare with them in point of discipline, nor was their conduct in any respect, in camp or in the field, in battle or in those still more trying and difficult situations to which they were exposed, inferior to that of any other corps, Regular or Irregular. It is unnecessary to say to you how much of this merit ought to be attached to the commanding officer. The Pittsburgh Blues (Butler's Company was so called) greatly distinguished themselves at the Battle of Messisiniway & in a sortie from Fort Meigs. My sense of their merit and that of their worthy Captain is strongly expressed in my Gen. Orders of that period, & in my letters to the Secretary of War.

It would be impertinent in a citizen of another State to interfere with your appointments further than the statement of facts with which it is possible you might be unacquainted. I shall therefore leave it to Capt. Bulters other friends to urge his claims to the office in question from his qualifications to discharge the duties, & the fairness of his private character. And conclude with assuring your Excellency of the great Respect with which I am

Your Hum. Servt.

WILL. H. HARRISON

Gov. HIESTER [*Penn.*]

Penn. Mag. of History and Biography

the left. Major Ball's squadron occupied the right and one half of the rear line Col. Simrall's Regiment the left and other half of the rear line Between Ball's right and Simerall's left there was an interval which had not been filled up, owing to the unusual extent of ground the camp embraced, it having been laid off in my absence to the lower towns. I now began to deliberate upon our future movements whether to go on further encumbered with prisoners, the men much fatigued and a great many severely frost bitten. Horses suffering from the want of forage which was very partially relieved by the scanty supplies of corn obtained in the towns or return. I determined to convene the Field officers and captains of the detachment to consult and then to take such a course as my own judgment might approve. At four in the morning of the 18th I ordered the reveille to be beaten, and the officers convened at my fire a short time afterwards, whilst we were in council and about half an hour before day my camp was most furiously attacked by a large party of Indians preceded by and accompanied with a most hideous yell, this immediately broke up the council and every man ran to his post. The attack commenced upon that angle of the camp formed by the left of Capt. [S. G.] Hopkins Troops and the right of Captn. [William] Garrard but in a few seconds became general from the extreme of the right to the left of Balls squadron. The enemy boldly advanced to within a few yards of the Lines and seemed determined to rush in. The guards posted at the different redoubts retreated into camp and dispersed among their different companies thus leaving me without a disposable force. Captn. Smith of the Kentucky light Dragoons who commanded at one of the Redoubts in a handsome and military manner kept his position untill ordered in to fill up the interval in the rear line, between the Regiment and Squadron. The Redoubt at which Captain [Bennoni] Pierce commanded was first attacked, the Captn. maintained his position until it was too late to get within the line. He received two balls thro his body and was tomahawked, he died bravely and much lamented. The enemy then took possession of Capt. Pierce's redoubt and poured in a tremendous fire upon the angle to the right and left of which were posted Hopkins' and Garrard's troops but the fire was as warmly returned, not an inch of ground was yielded, every man, officer and soldier, stood firm

and animated and encouraged each other. the enemy's fire became warm on the left of the squadron at which Capt. [Abraham] Marcle's[2] troop was posted and the right of [Wilson] Elliott's company which with Marcles formed an angle of the camp was severely annoyed by the enemy's fire. I had assisted in forming the Infantry composed of Elliotts company of the 19th U. S. Regt. [Capt. James R.] Buttler's Pittsburgh Blues,[2] and Alexander's Pennsylvania Riflemen and ordered them to advance to the brink of a declivity from which they could more effectively defend themselves and harrass the enemy, if they should attempt an attack on that line, this however they thought proper to omit. Whilst I was thus engaged Major Ball rode up to me and observed he was hard pressed and must be relieved. I galloped immediately to the left wing with an intention of ordering Capt. [George] Trotter's Troops to reinforce the squadron, but there was informed that the enemy were seen approaching in that direction and believing it improper on second thought to detach so large a troop from the line which also covered an angle of the camp I determined to give the Relief from the Infantry. I wheeled my horse and met Major McDowell who observed that the spies and guides under the command of Capt. Paterson Bain consisting of ten men were unemployed. We rode there together and ordered Captain Bain to the support of the squadron. seven of them, to wit: James Audrain, William Conner, Silas McCullough, James Thompson, James Naggs, John Ruland and Joseph G McCleland followed their brave leader, and I rendered most effectual assistance. I then ordered Capt. Buttler with the Pittsburgh Blues to repair immediately to reinforce the squadron and directed Capt. [Wilson] Elliott and Alexander to extend to the right and left and fill the interval occasioned by the withdrawal of the Blues. Capt. Buttler in a most gallant manner and highly worthy of the name he bears formed his men immediately in excellent order and marched them to the point to which he was ordered. The alacrity with which they formed and moved was never excelled by any troops on earth. Hopkins made room for them by extending his Troop to the

2. Abraham Markle was born in Ulster Co., N. Y., 1769. From there he moved to Upper Canada and when the war of 1812 opened was prosperous. He joined the troops of U. S. and his property was lost. Congress gave him a grant of land which he located on the Wabash. He was one of the founders of Terre Haute, where his descendants still reside. He died March 26, 1826.

right. The Blues were scarcely at the post assigned them before I discovered the effect they produced. A well directed fire from them and Hopkins Dragoons nearly silenced the enemy in that quarter. they then moved in force to the left of the squadron and right of the infantry at which Capt. Marcle's and Elliott's companies were posted. Here again they were warmly received. Lieut. [David] Gwynne and Ensign Batteal Harrison who were on the right of the company boldly stood their ground, and fired obliquely on the enemy. Those two young officers in a particular manner signalized themselves and shed a lustre on the 19th. Capt. [Wilson] Elliott and Lieut. [James] Campbell were on the left of the Company and were not engaged. Serjeant [William] Levitt Q. M. Sergeant to the 19th U. S. Regt. deserves particular notice for his bravery. At this time daylight began to dawn. I then ordered Captain Trotter whose Troop had been ordered by Col. Simrall to mount for the purpose to make a charge. The Capt. cried out to his men to follow him and they tilted off at full gallop. Capt. Trotter's first Lieut. with eighteen of the men were on guard. Lieut. Trotter, Cornet Dishman and the residue of the troop together with Lieut. Hobson and four men of Elmores troop Doct. Moore and a few other Gentleman including Mr. Thomas Moore my private secretary advanced gallantly and charged a numerous body of the enemy. Major McDowell with a small party rushed into the midst of the enemy and exposed himself very much. I cannot say too much for this gallant veteran. Capt. Markle with about fifteen of his troop and Lieut. Warren's also made a daring charge upon the enemy. Captn. Markle avenged the Death of his relative Lieut. [Daniel] Waltz upon an Indian with his own sword. Capt. Trotter and his troop Capt. Markle and his little band performed a most dangerous duty in the bravest manner. Captn. Trotter mentions to me as worthy of particular notice Robert Mitchell a waggoner, who had volunteered for the expedition, Christian Willman, trumpeter to Col. Simralls regiment who blew two charges, and hewed down an Indian with his sword, William Montgomery, Sergt. Major to the Regt. of Kentucky Light Dragoons, was in the charge and distinguished himself as well as in the skirmish the day before. In this charge Capt. Trotter was wounded slightly, Corporal [Henry] Riddle shot through the body David Steele

wounded in the thigh slightly and the brave [Salem] Piatt received his mortal wound being shot through the body and hand. Fearing that Capt. Trotter might be too hard pressed, I ordered Captn. [John] Johnson of the Kentucky light Dragoons to advance with his Troop to support him. I found Johnson ready and Col. Simrall reports to me that all his other captains to wit Elmore, Young and Smith were anxious to join in the charge, but I called for only One Troop. The Colo. had the whole in excellent order. Capt. Johnson did not join Trotter untill the enemy was out of reach, he however picked up a straggler or two that Trotter had passed over. The Cavalry returned and informed me the enemy had fled precipitately. I have on this occation to lament the loss of several brave men and a great many wounded, amongst the former are Capt. [Benoni] Pierce of the Ohio Volunteers and Lieut. [Daniel] Waltz of Markles troop. From the enclosed list you will see the names and numbers of the killed and wounded, Eight being killed and forty-eight wounded two of whom are since dead. The enemy paid dearly for their temerity from the trails thro the snow and those found dead, we could not have killed less than thirty which with those killed the day before amounts to thirty-eight. The enemy did not take a scalp. The Indian who killed Capt. Pierce attempted to scalp him but was killed. Major Ball informs me that he can say with confidence that there never were officers and soldiers who displayed more cool, firm and soldierly conduct, than those of his squadron.

The zeal activity and courage displayed by Capt. Hopkins and his officers (Capt. McCleland and Cornet Herod of the Pennsylvania volunteers having been atached to him) did not fail to arrest his attention and met his fullest approbation. Lieut. [James] Hedges received a slight wound on the nose. Capt. Garrards Troops sustained the action at that point where it raged with greater violence for some time after it commencement that at any other (except upon the left) with the firmness of veterans, while the officers were unceasingly employed in stimulating and encouraging their men. Lieut. [Edward] Basey and [Harris H.] Hickman were both wounded early, but performed their duty in the line to the close of the action. Cornet McClanahan Q.M. to the Detachment was eaqually active in the line with the other officers of

the Troop. Q. M. Serjt. Strother I. Hawkins who had no other fire arms loaded and fired his pistol several times at the enemy and many others similarly situated used their pistols as fast as they could load them. Young Mr. Baylor placed himself a little in front of the line and fought bravely during the action. Lieut. Warren's and Cornet Lee's detachment behaved with great firmness and used their pistols and carbines to the best advantage Cornet Grear (of Warren's) was wounded in the arm but remained sometime afterwards in the line. Capt. Markles Troop as I have before stated was situated upon the left of the squadron and most sorely galled. Lieut. Waltz fell most gallantly. there never were men who sustained so heavy an action with more firmness, but one sentiment pervaded the whole and victory or death was most obstinately determined upon. Col. Simrall's Regiment altho not engaged with the exception of Trotter's Troop were all ready and panting to engage. The Colonel deserves the highest applause for his excellent disposition during the action, and for his cool firm and deliberate conduct. To Major Ball the greatest praise is due for his activity and bravery during the action. No man could have done more, he informs me he was greatly aided throughout the progress of the action by the exertions of Lieut. and Adjt. Fullerton and Serjeant Major Edwards. I must now mention in the highest terms of appreciation Lieut. [John] Payne of the Kentucky Light Dragoons who acted as my adjutant on the expedition for his great activity attention to duty and gallantry during the action he rendered the most essential service. My extra adjutant Capt. [Lewis] Hite was verry active and as brave as a Lion I always found him ready for any service I had for him to perform. Capt. Luce of the Ohio volunteers marcked with me from this place as a private in the ranks and in the action killed an Indian, he deserves my particular notice. Captain Alexander with his rifleman were on the left of the front line and not engaged but were all ready if an opportunity had offered. Beverly Brown and Thomas Bedford of Capt. Gerrard's Troop and Francis Lousong of the Blues were killed fighting bravely in exposed situations. I have now my dear Sir detailed to you the particulars of an engagement bravely fought and victory gloriously won after contending most warmly for at least an hour. From the length of our line simultaneously attacked by them I am

persuaded there could not have been less than three hundred of the enemy. They fought most bravely. My strength on the morning of the action was about five hundred and ninety rank and file a considerable proportion of whom, amounting to at least forty or fifty were almost rendered unfit for duty by the severity of the weather. Some were so badly frost bitten as to be scarcely able to walk. There never was severer service performed by any troops and yet there is not a murmur. Reports made to me yesterday morning informs of three hundred and three who are so severely frostbitten as to be entirely unfit for duty. On my march back I was compelled to move slowly on account of the wounded, seventeen of whom we had to carry on litters. I kept the troops always ready to meet an attack which I daily and nightly expected untill I reached this place. I fortified my camp every night by a breast work, which kept us busily engaged. The scarcity of axes was now most sensibly felt. I have informed you how I advanced into the enemy's country. My return was much in the same mode. I determined to be always ready to avoid surprizes and falling into ambuscades. I assure you the responsibility attached to this command I most seriously felt being young in service an inexperienced I felt great diffidence in accepting this command. I however hope my conduct will meet your approbation. I shall hasten on to join you but it will take the troops some time to recruit and heal. Some will lose toes, others feet are so swollen as not to be able to put on their shoes. The night march was most severe upon them.

I met Major [John] Adair with ninety-five men on my return about forty miles from the place with a supply of provisions. This came most seasonably some companies were entirely without. Hopkins's had eat nothing for three days. That night I should have ordered a horse to be killed. The greatest praise is due Major [Nathaniel F.] Adams for his promptitude in relieving us. My express arrived here on Saturday evening and he started on Sunday morning. The next day I met Col. Holt from Dayton with additional supplies. Through the whole of this expedition we certainly were favored by divine Providence. The weather though severe was favorable to the enterprize the snow enabled us to ascertain whether we were discovered. The moon gave light all the night and on our return the water courses were blocked up

by ice. there was not a drop of rain, such a concatenation of favorable circumstances rarely happens. The Indian prisoners I will send off tomorrow to Piqua to the care of Mr. [John] Johnson escorted by an officer and twenty troops from this place. The few lines I wrote you from the Battle Ground I find in some particulars to be incorrect, not having at that time full reports of the wounded, My prisoners are also more than I then represented. I think Sir that you may assure the Government that the Battle of Mississinniway was not badly fought and that the enemy suffered severely, that the Troops deserve well of their country and their losses ought to be compensated. The number of horses killed were considerable and I have no doubt they saved the lives of a great many men. I hope to overtake you before Malden falls. I have learned since my return that Genl. [Samuel] Hopkins had returned to Vincennes after burning some Indian villages and driving them, supposed to be three hundred in number, up the Wabash. This still made my situation more perilous and I shall not be surprised to learn that Tecumseh commanded in the action against me. let him be who he may he was a gallant fellow and manouvered well. [William] Conner thinks it was Little Thunder (nephew to the Little Turtle) from his loud voice which he knew. He heard him ordering his men in the Miami language to rush on that they would soon retreat. I think Sir the Kentucky cavalry will surely be in a situation to render you much more service. Their losses in horses are considerable and one hundred and thirty-eight frost bitten severely. They are fine fellows with a few exceptions and as brave as any men in the world. Captn. Prince is here verry sick he was unable to get on with us, this was to me a great loss.

I am Sir verry respectfully your most obdt. & Hb. Servt.

JOHN B. CAMPBELL, *Lt. Col. 19th U. S. Regt.*

His Excellency Genl. WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON
Commander in Chief N. W. Army.

RETURN OF THE BATTLE OF MISSINEWAY

Harrison Pa. 18-21

The following is a true statement of the killed and wounded

in the Battle of the Mississinway on the morning of the 18th Instant and in the skirmish on the 17th viz:

On the 17th In Captain Hopkins troops U. S. L. D.
Sergeant James Wright, Killed.
In Captain Elmores troop Ky. Vol. L. D.
Sergeant Thos. Smith wounded, since dead.

On the 18th In Captn. Hopkins troops U. S. L. D.
1st Lieut. James Hedges slightly.
Thomas Robinson badly
John Holcroft "
John May slightly
John Tarn badly
Thos. Salsbury badly
} Privates

In Captn. Marcles troop 12 mo Penn. V. L. D.
2nd Lieut. Danl. Waltz. killed
Private Jas. Giffin killed
Corpls. Henry Breneman, badly
Corp. Robert Skilly slightly
Saddler, James Smith, slightly
Thompson Carnahan mortally, since dead
Robt. Campbell dangerously
Findlay Carnahan badly
Wm. Logue slightly
Jos. Chambers badly
Jas. Selby slightly
Thomas Porter badly
John McCarmon, badly
Robt. Cooper slightly
David Braden slightly
Jno. Bennet slightly
} Privates

In Captn Garrards Troop 12 mos. K. V. L. D.
Privates Thomas Bedford killed
Beverly Brown killed
1st Lieut. Edwd. Baysey, slightly
2nd Lieut. David Hickman slightly
Qr. M. Sergeant Strother J. Hawkins slightly
Sergeant G. Edwards slightly
Farrier J. McConnell slightly
Henry Willson
Moses Richardson

RETURN OF THE BATTLE OF MISSINEWAY—Continued.

Thomas Easton badly
Wm. Scott mortally
Thomas Webster

In Capt. Pierces troop 6 mos. Ohio V. L. D.
Captn. Bennoni Pierce killed
Privates Daniel Cunningham Killed
Willm. Monroe wounded.

In Lieut. Warrens troop Penna. A. L. D.
Cornet Greer, wounded

In Cornet Lee's Troop 12 mo. Michigan V. L. D.
Privates David Hull wounded
Michael McDermot wounded
Cyrus Hunter wounded.

In Capt. Trotters Troop 6 mo. Ky. V. L. D.
Captn. Geo. Trotter Jr. slightly
1st. Sergt. Byrd Smith badly
1st Corpl. Henry Riddle dangerously
Salem Peyatt, [Piatt] mortally since dead
David Steele, slightly

In Captain Elliotts Company U. S. Infty.
Privates Walter McAllister wounded
Henry Watters wounded
Thomas Wittington wounded

In Captain Butlers (Pitts.) Blues 12 Mos. V. Infty
Private Francis Lansing killed
Corps. E. Elliott wounded
Corp. Reid wounded
Private Isaac Chess wounded
Jos. Dodd wounded

Killed Captains	1	Wounded Captains	1
2nd Lieut.	1	1 Lts	2
Sergts.	1	2 Lts	1
Privates	5	Cornets	1
		Q. M. Sergts.	1
Total killed in action	8	Sergts.	3
Died of the wounded since the action	2	Corps	5
		Saddlers	1
		Farriers	1
Total	10	Privates	32
		Total wounded in action	48

RETURN OF THE BATTLE OF MISSINEWAY—Continued.

A report of the number rendered unfit for duty by being frost bitten as appears from the reports of the morning of the 24th Inst. Viz.

In Major Balls squadron	107
Col. Simralls Regt	138
Infantry and Riflemen	58
Total	303

JOHN PAYNE *1st Lt. Ky. V. L. D. and adjt. to Detachment*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT Dec. 26, 1812

Har. Pa. 42-47

General WM. H. HARRISON

SIR:

The President having confided to me [James Monroe] the temporary charge of this Department, I have to communicate to you his sentiments on some important objects relating to the operations of the Troops under your command.

The object of your Expedition was to retake Detroit, to take Malden, with the adjacent Country, and to hold them. For this purpose, a considerable force was placed under your command, with all the other means which the Government could afford. It was anticipated that you would have to encounter many difficulties in the execution of your orders, particularly in the transportation of provisions and other supplies; but it was presumed that they might be surmounted. The delay however which has already taken place, and which it is not doubted has been unavoidable, and the expense which has been incurred inseparable from the great force assembled under you give the President much concern. It is the greater from the consideration that the terms of the Volunteer and Militia Corps will soon expire, and leave you the regular force only, with a few Volunteer Companies for one year.

The President still considers the occupancy of Detroit and Malden objects of the highest importance. If these Posts could be taken and held, the advantage attending it would be most extensively felt. It would put an end to the British ascendancy over the Indian Tribes, and connected with and

aided by other measures, which that event would suggest, and which it would be easy to execute, it would demolish the British power in that quarter. It is therefore with great reason, that the President has attached such high importance to the complete success of your expedition. Important however as it is, you will nevertheless be sensible of the ill consequences attending a perseverance in efforts which while they expose our Troops to all the hardships of the present season, and exhaust our provisions and the public Treasury afford no reasonable prospect of success.

At this distance and with an imperfect knowledge of the actual state of things it is impossible for the president to decide satisfactorily to himself, or with advantage to the public, whether it is practicable for you to accomplish the objects of the expedition in their full extent, during the present Winter. No person can be so competent to that decision as yourself; and the President has great confidence in the solidity of the opinion which you may form. He wishes you maturely to weigh this important subject, and to take that part which your judgment may dictate. It is expected that you will forthwith form a clear and distinct plan as to the objects which you may deem attainable, the time within which they may be attained, and the force necessary for the purpose, and that you communicate the same with precision to the Department. As soon as you have formed this plan you will proceed to execute it, without waiting for an answer, and as soon as the Government is made acquainted with it, measures will be adopted to give to your operations all the aid in its power.

The Troops now under your command were ordered to the field immediately after the surrender of Detroit when it was apprehended that the British force and Indians flushed with their late success, would make incursions and carry their savage war to our frontier. The Government confident of the ample means of the Country and disdaining to relinquish any part of the plan at first conceived, in consequence of that disgraceful event resolved to pursue every object with new vigor, with a force which should be adequate, affording at the same time complete protection to the frontiers. But the Indians, driven by the season have, it is presumed, now left the field and the British Commander under the Pressure made below drawn much of his force to the Strait of Niagara and else-

where in that Quarter, so that there is little to apprehend for the present from either party.

You will decide whether the whole force now under your command is still necessary, and will be effectual for the accomplishment of the original objects of the Expedition. Your situation and the intelligence you have acquired, will enable you to judge what opposition you may expect from the Savages on the Route to Detroit, and you are doubtless correctly informed of the strength of the British force there, and at Malden, as of the condition of those Fortresses in respect to provisions, cannon, and other munitions of War. If you strike at those posts it will be well to keep together a force which shall be abundantly adequate to their reduction and retention, but all extra force, serving only by its magnitude to impede and retard your march by the difficulty of procuring and transporting provisions, and to exhaust our Resources, and the spirits of the people ought to be dismissed.

Should you be of opinion that your force and other means are incompetent at this season to the reduction of Detroit and Malden and their retention, or of Detroit only, in consequence of their strength in men and cannon and the difficulty of transporting cannon to bear on them, and of supplies for support of the Troops during the present season, then the Campaign must be reduced within that limit. It will be confined to such objects as are within your reach, particularly to the protection of your advanced supplies on the Miamis, and of the Frontier, and to such annoyances of the Enemy as may be practicable. For these objects, especially the security of your supplies and protection of the frontier, in case nothing is to be apprehended from the Indians, a small force will be adequate. For the latter, the force must be apportioned to the nature and extent of the annoyance contemplated. The destruction of the Queen Charlotte, and of the whole of the naval force of the enemy frozen up as it is presumed to be in the ice, would be an important attainment. It is one which is recommended to your particular attention. Success in it would pave the way to an easy command of the upper Lakes early in the next campaign, and a command of them would contribute most essentially to the reduction of all upper Canada. For this expedition, in aid of the Regular Troops, or such part as it may be proper to employ in it, after placing judiciously an adequate

force for the protection of your advanced supplies and of the frontiers, and making an arrangement for sustaining and keeping open the communication with the force employed in the Expedition, it is presumable that some of the gallant spirits now in the field from Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Virginia would readily volunteer their services. It is not doubted that you might easily draw from those Corps, an adequate force for this service, should the object be deemed practicable. The cause should not be stinted. According to the object the force should be abundant. All beyond it should be discharged. Those brave men who turned out to serve their country at so interesting a crisis and have borne so many hardships, have a just claim to be relieved as soon as it appears that there is no further occasion for them. They will come forward again when their country requires their aid. From every view that is taken of the subject, there seems to be no motive for keeping in service either the Troops under the command of General [Elijah] Wadsworth or General [Samuel] Hopkins. If you see no sufficient reason to the contrary you will of course disband them. The Indian tribes present another object of annoyance. It is presumed that at this season their Villages are in a great measure defenceless. If their provisions were destroyed, they would be in want of the means to carry on the next campaign. Their Warriors are supposed to be engaged in small parties in hunting. If they were met with they would be easily vanquished, in which case we should have less to apprehend from them hereafter. You may perhaps be able to engage and form from among the Troops under you, whose terms are about to expire, some Corps for this Service.

It is probable that Volunteer Corps may be raised out of the Troops now in the field to serve for one year. On that presumption I send you Commissions, which you are authorized to confer on such deserving characters as may merit them, and maybe able to raise the men. The pretensions of Colonel [Duncan] McArthur, [James] Findlay and [Lewis] Case are much respected here. It is expected that they will soon be relieved from all restraint on account of their late captivity, and it is much desired to bring them again into active service. Of Colonel James Dunlap a very favorable opinion is also entertained. On this subject I shall write you more fully soon.

It is proper to inform you that the President has it in contemplation to set on foot an expedition from Kentucky of about 1000 mounted men to pass by Fort Wayne, the lower end of Lake Michigan and round by the Illinois, back to the Ohio near Louisville, for the purpose of scouring that Country, destroying the provisions collected in the Indian villages, scourging the Indians themselves and disabling them from interfering with your operations. It is expected that this expedition will commence in the Month of February and that it will terminate in a few weeks. I give you the information that you may take it into consideration in the estimate of those arrangements you may find it necessary to make for carrying into effect the objects of the Government.

I send you a copy of the proposed plan on which I wish to hear from you without delay. You will particularly state whether you can effect those objects in the manner which is suggested, by adequate portions of the force now in the field and in that case whether it would be better to suspend the movement of this force till the Spring.

You will be able at an early day to state distinctly, the force which will be required in the Spring, to secure success to future operations in that Quarter. You know the amount of the British force at this time at Detroit, and in Upper Canada, of the Indian force which may be combined with it, and you can form a tolerable estimate of the impression which you may make during the Winter; and taking a combined view of the whole subject, you may give a just idea of what will be requisite for the next Camapign, and at what time it ought to take the Field. The President desires that you will hasten to communicate your sentiments on this subject, that they may be taken into consideration, and that such provision may be made for a vigorous prosecution of the next campaign in every direction, as may secure complete success to it.

J. M. [James Monroe]

Mississineway Expedition

Dayton, O. December 31, 1812

Pittsburgh *Gazette, Jan. 22, 1813*

On the 25th of November a detachment under the command of Lt. Col. [John] Campbell left Franklinton on a tour which was then a secret. This detachment consisted of a regiment

of Light Horse (6 mos. Vols.) of Kentucky, Col. [James] Simeral, U. S. Regulars, and U. S. Volunteers, commanded by Major [James V.] Ball, a company of regular infantry, the Pittsburgh Blues and Capt. Alexander's Riflemen, amounting in the whole to upwards of 600 men. We proceeded to this place. We here left all our tents and all our baggage. From this we marched to Greenville, the extreme frontier settlement. Previous to our arrival here the object of our expedition was made known to us. We were informed in general orders that it was against the Miami Indians whose town and settlements lay on the Mississineway River.

The whole of the 'foot' being mounted on pack horses at Dayton, in order to expedite our march, we proceeded with considerable rapidity. Our march, after we left Greenville lay through a dreary wilderness, and never saw a house nor the trace of a human being, except savages, for the distance of 85 miles, the whole of our march from Franklinton being about 200 miles. Every man carried his own provisions on his horse, which consisted of nothing but biscuit and pork. As we had no camp equipage of any kind, our only means of cooking was by broiling our meat on the coals, or roasting it on a stick before the fire.

On the morning of the third day's march from the settlement, we were within 40 miles of the Indians towns. We proceeded that day, and the whole of the next night, and halted at about 4 O'clock in the morning a few miles from the town. After refreshing ourselves for about an hour, we took up our line of march, which was in ten columns of single file, the order observed during the whole expedition, and moved with the greatest silence, our object being to take them by surprise. When we were within half a mile of the town our guides gave direction to move up as briskly as possible. Here a scene of tumult and confusion ensued. Every man put spurs to his horse, the yell was raised by the whole army, the ranks were broken, and we entered the town in the utmost confusion and disorder.

The infantry and riflemen, who were mounted on pack horses, and were left in the rear when the race began, dismounted and entered the town regularly formed. There were not more than 12 or 15 warriors in the town. These, on the approach of our men, fled across the river without making

any resistance. We fired on them and killed 6 or 7. Between 30 and 40 prisoners were taken, men, women, and children, and the town burnt. Had we entered the town in regular order every Indian might have been taken without firing a gun. The prisoners were left in the care of the infantry and riflemen, and the light horse proceeded to destroy another town, a few miles lower down the river, which they accomplished, there being only two or three old men and a squaw in it. The light horse returned in the afternoon.

Our loss in the attack consisted of two men—one killed by accident by our own men in the general confusion; the other had strolled some distance from the town and was shot by an Indian who was lurking about. We were informed by the Indian prisoners that there were 500 warriors at a town 15 miles below, at the junction of the Mississineway and Wabash. [Peru] From this information we had every reason to apprehend an attack next morning. The result justified our suspicions.

The object of the expedition being accomplished, which was to take prisoners and destroy the Indian towns, we had received orders to prepare for our return next morning. We encamped that night in our usual order, which was a hollow square.

After revielle in the morning and about half an hour before daylight just as the moon had set, and while we were cooking our breakfast and preparing for our march, we were assailed by the yells of the savages.

The attack commenced on the right rear angle of the camp with greatest fury, and was sustained by part of Major Ball's Squadron of horse who were on that quarter. The guards were immediately driven in—every man was under arms in a minute. Our company, together with the rest of the infantry and riflemen, formed the front side of the square, instantly formed on our ground where we waited for orders. In a short time, and while the battle raged with great fury on the quarter where it commenced, Col. Campbell rode to Captain Butler and ordered him to reinforce that quarter or we should be cut off. The company immediately marched to the spot directed and poured in so furious and well directed a fire that in a short time the fire of the enemy was almost totally silenced.

Soon after this daylight began to appear, and our party prov-

ing too powerful the savages began to retreat. They were pursued some distance by a troop of horse and routed with considerable slaughter. The action continued about an hour. Our loss was eight killed and about 45 wounded. Of the wounded, two died on our return and one at this place. These, together with the two killed the day of the attack on the town, makes our loss in killed, 12.

The greatest part of the battle being fought in the dark, renders it impossible to form a correct idea of the number of the enemy. It is the general opinion, however, that their force was about 300. Neither are we able to ascertain correctly their loss, but from the number we found dead on the field, from the trails in the snow of those who had been dragged off, and from the reports of the Indians who have since come in, we calculate their loss to be about 100 killed and wounded.

In the action our Pittsburgh boys behaved with the greatest courage. It is impossible to say too much in their praise. On the first alarm they were formed with the utmost alacrity and marched to the ground in the best order, where they fought with the coolness and intrepidity of veterans, and although two of the men were wounded in the commencement of the action they refused to leave the ranks but fought until the action was over. In short, our company contributed more than any other to decide the fate of the day. They were in the hottest of the action for a considerable time, yet there was not the smallest indication of fear discernible in a single man. We had one killed, one dangerously wounded, but he is now recovering, one severely and two slightly wounded.

No less can be said in praise of Captain Markle's troops. His loss in killed and wounded was considerable. Among the killed was his second lieutenant, Waltz. He was wounded in the arm at the commencement of the action, but fought until near its close, when he received a ball through his forehead, which terminated his life in about five hours. Of the whole detachment, not more than four companies can properly be said to have been engaged. These were Markle's, Garrard's and Hopkins' troops of horse and Butler's company of infantry—The Pittsburgh Blues.

The attack was made on the three first mentioned troops, who sustained the shock until they were reinforced by our

company. Other parts of the army had some slight skirmishing but were not drawn into the regular line of battle. All the cavalry were armed with rifles and muskets and fought on foot until daylight.

Burying the dead and making preparation for transporting our wounded procrastinated our departure till late in the afternoon. The dead were buried in one of the houses which was torn down and burned over the graves to prevent any trace of their deposit being discovered by the Indians. All the wounded, who were not able to ride, were carried on litters by horses. This necessarily retarded our movements greatly, and we were every night under the continual apprehension of an attack from the savages. We every night fortified ourselves by throwing up a strong breastwork around our encampment. The men slept on their arms. One-third of the detachment was detailed every night for guard. Fortunately, however, the reception we gave them at Mississineway deterred them from again attacking us.

After a tedious march of seven days we arrived at Greenville. From that place we sent the prisoners under a militia guard to Piqua. Fortune favored us with respect to weather, which was extremely cold. Had it been otherwise, the difficulties from the number of creeks and the great swamps we had to cross would have rendered it almost impossible. The detachment is very much broken down from the severity of the weather. Nearly one half have their feet frost bitten, which renders them incapable of doing duty.

To add to our misfortune, when within two days march of Greenville our provisions were exhausted. This, to troops so much reduced by fatigue and hardships, as we were, was sufficient to damp the spirits of any men. The second night before our arrival at the settlement we encamped on the same ground we had occupied on our march out. Here our men were glad to gather the grains of corn from the ground where the horses had fed, and parch and boil it for their sustenance. The next day we met a reinforcement of militia from Greenville. They brought six pack-horse loads of provisions, which afforded about half a ration a man. This kept us from starving till we arrived at the settlement, where we got everything necessary for our relief.

I can scarcely believe any men suffered more than we did

from fatigue and hunger. Indeed, the result proves it, as there is not more than one-fourth of our detachment fit for duty. Notwithstanding all this, I scarcely ever heard a man complain.

From *Western Penn. Hist. Mag., Vol. 4, 115-119*

JOHN KETCHAM RANGER SERVICE

Reminiscences of Col. John Ketcham

I propose to give a short history of our Indian troubles of 1812-1813, in that part of the Indiana Territory, commonly called the "Forks", situated between Muscackituck and the Driftwood fork of White River, called by the Indians Hangonahakqua sepoo. In April, 1811, we settled on Section 14, Township 5 N., Range 4 East. Said section was made fractional by the Indian Boundary line cutting off the N. W. corner. The Indians were numerous and friendly in that part of the Territory until after the Tippecanoe battle, which took place on the 7th of November 1811. The Delaware tribe expressed disapprobation of the battle and many Indians left our part of the Territory then, but not all. We enjoyed peace, but not without fear, until April 7th, 1812; about two and a half miles above our location there lived three families together, Hinton, Cox and Reddick. Their horses grazed in what was called the Cherry Bottom, five or six miles above. Hinton started in the morning to get a horse for some purpose, but not returning that day, his friends went in search of him, and ascertained that their horses were all stolen, and that Hinton was murdered or taken prisoner. The circumstance being made known to our neighborhood, we all went in search of the missing man. When we arrived at the Cherry Bottom, two men were sent to examine the river shore, the balance were so divided as to sweep the bottom at one through. He was found shot through the head, stripped and thrown into the river. We laid him on a blanket, tied the corners over a pole and started for home. Night overtaking us we cut forks and raised the corpse out of the reach of wolves. A proposition was then made to John Ketcham and Noah Wright, that if Ketcham would write a letter, and Wright take it to the Governor, then at Charlestown, they should be exempt from helping to bring in and bury the dead, agreed to.

Next morning (Sunday) about ten o'clock myself and fam-

ily were shut up in the house. I was lying on a pallet before the fire, when suddenly, without speaking, three Indians, each having a gun, pushed open the door and came in. I requested them to take seats; they placed their guns in the corner of the house and took seats. I took occasion to examine their guns, found them primed and loaded. It was not common when the Indians called on the Whites to have any guns with them. Sometimes they had one, but that not loaded. They could speak pretty good English. I asked them, "what news?" They answered "none". I told them of the murder of Hinton and horses stolen. They then observed that three days past, seven Winnebago Indians passed their camp, going towards Cherry Bottom. I then let them know that we had sent a man to tell the Governor what was done, and in a little time he would send men to hunt up the bad Indians, &c. I asked them if they would go with me to the burying, they consented. My wife objected to my going with them and wept. The oldest sympathized with her and shed tears too. We started, I leading the way. We had proceeded near a mile, they stopped, said "we no go, make white man heap mad", so we returned but found nobody at the house. My wife and children had secreted themselves in the bushes, supposing they should kill me, and return and kill them, and plunder the house. The conduct of the three Indians was very suspicious. They had brought skins to trade with me, but left them hid some distance from the house, saying nothing about them until after our return. Just as we returned, McColough, who had a squaw to wife, and another white man, happened to come there. Mc. told them if they didn't leave immediately, "every devil of them should be killed". They returned to their camp, and left in great haste, leaving some of their valuables. They were the last camp of Indians that left our frontier that season.

In about ten days after, the Indian Agent, residing at the Delaware town, sent two Indians, Salt Peter and Peter Vanvacter, with a letter and a white flag, stating that it was not the Delawares who had done the mischief, but the Kickapoos, who had passed through their town with the stolen horses. The two messengers remained with the Whites many weeks. Peter Vanvacter hired to work and never returned, was murdered in Kentucky by some unprincipled white man because

he was an Indian. A man was killed near widow Solida's, a few miles from Muscackatuck—his name not now recollected. Another man was killed on White River at McGowen's Ferry.

At the commencement of our Indian troubles, there were upwards of seventy families living in the Forks, but in a few weeks after Hinton's murder, upwards of fifty families left the country, and some for safety crossed the Ohio river. The balance, fifteen or eighteen families, determined not to leave and built block-houses and forts. John Sage and others built a fort at his place, but the principal fort was at Valonia, Huff's fort, higher up, and Ketcham's fort, still above and outside. We all lived in forts, went in companies to work our little improvements, some stood sentinel, while others worked, and thus we got along for a while. The good people of Harrison and Clark counties, considering the small number left in the Forks, and they shut up in forts, could not hold out long. The most good they seemed to do was to be a kind of Indian bait, for the safety of the interior counties, who probably taking that view of the subject, reinforced us, by sending company after company to help us maintain our stand. The Indians began to understand by our preparations, that we would sooner fight a little than quit our location, although very few that remained during the war were owners of land, many having settled over the boundary line, where the land did not come into market for several years after.

About the time that Fort Harrison and Fort Wayne were besieged by the Indians, namely, the 4th of September, 1812, a marauding party of Indians, who passed north of our forts, fell on the unguarded and unsuspecting neighbourhood of Pigeon Roost, killing twenty three men women and children, mostly women and children. After robbing the houses they set fire to them, and stole horses to carry off their booty. About the same time, Major Duvall, of Salem, with a small company of men, made a scout up White River, and it so happened that while they were passing over some fallen timber on Sand Creek, that they came in contact with the Indians on their return from the Pigeon Roost. Those of them who had horses threw off their large packs and made good their retreat. Two others who had no horses fled in another direction, pursued by the men. John Zink, one of the party, being young and athletic, outran his comrades, and when the

Indians discovered that they were separated, they devised a plan to shoot Zink. In crossing a ravine, one Indian secreted himself, while the other showed himself in plain view, within shooting distance. Zink stopped to shoot, but the secreted Indian fired first, giving him a mortal wound. Zink lay in his gore that rainy night; and was found by his companions next morning still alive, and brought to Ketcham's fort, where he was washed and comfortably clothed, and Dr. Lamb, of Salem, sent for. The Doctor arrived, drew a silk handkerchief through the wound, and started home. Zink died before they reached Valonia. The three large packs were opened, and found to consist of men, women and children's clothing. We knew then that some settlement has been destroyed, but at the time knew not what one.

About the last of September, 1812, Absalom Buskirk and brother-in-law took a two horse team to his field to get some corn and pumpkins. The Indians killed Buskirk and stole his two fine horses. The corpse was brought into Ketcham's fort, the same evening, and on the next morning, John Johnston, Robert Sturgeon and others came and hauled the corpse to Huff's fort for interment; after which Sturgeon started home, and was killed at the Half-mile branch, near Valonia. Although there were at Valonia a number of militia men, stationed, they were unwilling to risk their own scalps, and refused to go for the dead. After night the citizens, namely, Craigs, Rogers, Beems, &c. went with their dogs, and brought the corpse to the fort.

After the murder of Buskirk and Sturgeon, no other persons were killed during the Fall and Winter following, but many alarms were given and horses stolen. I will insert a few cases.

One night Daniel Stout, who now lives near Bloomington, and others, were at Ketcham's fort. After their sentinels were placed out in different directions round the fort, two heard and a third saw two Indians and fired at them, and then fled to the fort, expecting next morning to find a dead Indian, or a trail of blood; but a hard rain fell that night, and we found no Indian or blood.

At another time, about corn gathering, Capt. Hiram Boone, with twelve or fifteen men, were at Ketcham's fort. They tied their horses to stakes driven into the ground in the yard,

not far from the fort. A large poplar stump stood rather between two of the houses, not more than five steps from either. In that stump holes were bored and hooks driven in, and four or five horses fastened to them. The night was clear, but the moon did not rise until after night. While it was yet dark the Indians opened the yard fence into the corn field, and let down one bar on another square of the yard fence. The bars were within twelve or fifteen steps of the big stump. An Indian slipped through the bars, and got to the horses undiscovered, but while loosing his choice horse—a fine gelding, one of the guard fired at him, but he clung to the horse. Another guard fired on him, but he led the horse off through the gap, into the cornfield. By this time, Captain Boone and five or six of his men pursued the Indian having the horse. While the chase was going on, Ketcham was standing in the yard giving some directions when an Indian secreted near the bars, not more than twenty steps distant, fired at him. Boone halted and asked who had shot? I replied, an Indian. One of his men said, "Captain let us tree". He replied, "We don't know on which side of the tree to get, we will return to the fort". The party was composed of about sixteen Indians. We counted their trail next morning through a newly cut buckwheat patch, and at that time discovered what their policy had been. On each side of the gap opening into the cornfield there was placed a strong guard, also on each side of the bars; if an Indian had been closely pursued in either direction the guard would have shot down his pursuers.

Although it was believed that the Indians were continually prowling about some of our forts, the people got so hardened to danger that they seemed not to dread their enemy. One night Mr. Hutcherson and family, together with some of the militiamen, concluded to stay at his house, a short distance from Huff's fort. They felt safe and happy, and having a fiddle, concluded to have a dance, and enjoy themselves first rate; but in the morning when they awoke they found that their horses were all gone. While they were dancing, the Indians were catching their horses. Pursuit was made, and after following their trail a few miles they met David Sturgeon's old, ugly horse coming back with a leather tug tied so tightly around his throat that he could scarcely draw his breath. They did this, probably, to show their contempt for

the white man's old ugly horse. They recovered no more horses.

Long after that time the Indians stole two horses from Flinn's settlement. They were pursued by General Tipton, David and James Rogers, and others, who followed them for several days, when they found they were close on them, the water being muddy in their tracks. Tipton's plan was to follow them slowly and cautiously until night, then have fine sport tomahawking them. But his spies, Major Sparks and Mr. ———— disobeyed orders. The Indians had halted over the turn of a hill, dressing the horses' manes and tails. The Major and ———— got within thirty or forty steps of the Indians before they discovered them. The temptation was too great; they fired, but missed. When Tipton came up and saw what was done, he cried like a child, and was tempted to tomahawk the major. Their provisions were exhausted and they far from home. The rain had swelled the creeks until they were past fording; those who could swim had to do so. They came to a large creek in the north end of Monroe county. A man by the name of Bean Blossom, in attempting to swim the creek, came very near drowning, and Tipton named the creek Bean Blossom, after his name, and so it is called to this day.

At another time General Tipton and Captain Beam, with perhaps twenty men, made a scout to the West Fork of White River. Before they got to the river, they crossed a beautiful stream that empties into Bean Blossom near its mouth. A man by the name of Jack Storm, and another man named John Ketcham, in crossing the stream, got both of their horses mired and stuck fast in the mud. They then named the creek Jack's Defeat, and so it is called to this day.

No disturbance was made in the Winter of 1812. Perhaps the Indians thought they might be tracked in the snow. In March, 1813, they commenced again fiercer than ever. They made another descent on the Pigeon Roost country, killing old Mr. Huffman, wounding his wife and daughter, and taking his grandson, a small boy, son of Benjamin Huffman, prisoner. On their return they divided their company. One party stole Reed's horses, the other party went eight or ten miles from Reed's and stole Kimberlin's horses, and the same night made good their retreat.

After the war was over, Benjamin Huffman went North, perhaps to Detroit, in search of his lost son. He heard that his son had been sold to a Frenchman living in Canada. Huffman was poor; his means exhausted, he returned home discouraged, despairing of ever seeing his child again. Our kind and benevolent Representative in Congress, Jonathan Jennings, got an appropriation made to enable Huffman to seek further after his son. He hired a man to go with him. They went down the St. Lawrence into Canada and found his son. The child was so young when stolen, and had been gone so long, that he had forgotten his father's name. He recollected that he was called Ben, but had forgotten the balance of the name.

In the spring of 1813, the Pottawotamies made a descent on Flinn's settlement—now Leesville, killed Mr. Guthrie and took Martin Flinn prisoner. He remained a prisoner with them until the Fall of 1814. At that time a young warrior crossed the Tippecanoe river in a splendid canoe, on a courting expedition, and while enjoying himself with his beloved one, Flinn gathered his ax, which they had stolen when they captured him, and a few ears of corn, and quietly stepped into the lover's canoe, not asking any questions "for conscience sake", and with his beautiful paddle, rowed himself down stream all night. He secreted himself in daytime, and in this way spent several days and nights before he landed at Fort Harrison. When he landed, he was unable to get out of the canoe. He was helped out and cared for, and in a few days considered himself able to travel home. The rangers then at the Fort, and others, made up a pony purse, and bought him a horse to ride home on. In a few days he was able to ride, and carried his lost ax home. Oh! then, the happy meeting of friends and relations.

About the middle of March, 1813, John Ketcham and Geo. Doom, a Militia man from Harrison County, then on duty, went on an errand to Joshua Lindsey's,—Lindsey having during the winter of 1812 removed from Ketcham's fort to his farm some miles above. On their return home they were waylaid and fired on by the Indians. Doom was killed, and Ketcham badly wounded with two balls. When he reached the fort a messenger was sent to Valonia for a reinforcement. About twenty men, under command of Lieutenant ————,

proceeded to where Doom's corpse lay; after carrying it to Lindsey's, William Reddick, John Samuel and Frederick Funk were detailed to bury the dead, and remained at Lindsey's till next morning. The scout proceeded up the country for miles without making any discovery of Indian signs, and returned home. The fatigue party having completed the burial, the sun yet an hour high, concluded that the Indians, were all gone and they would return to the fort, they had proceeded about three hundred yards when the Indians lying in ambush near their path, fired on them, and wounded Reddick and Samuel, then retreated.

Shortly after this, General Tipton, Richard Beem, William Dyer and a number of Militia men from Harrison county, went on a scout up White River, some distance above Ketcham's fort, struck a fresh Indian trail. They eagerly and coutiously pursued the same, until they ascertained that the Indians had crossed over on drift timber into an island. Tipton stood ready with his gun presented, while Beem and others were crossing on the drifted logs. An Indian, who was secreted, raised his gun to shoot Beem, but Tipton touched trigger first. The Indian threw down his gun—it cocked, and retreated badly wounded. He was supposed to be their leader. Tipton and his men all crossed over into the island, except Dyer, who had charge of Tipton's horse. Several shots were exchanged between the parties. The Whites got one scalp, and tracked several of the enemy by the blood to the water, where they attempted to swim. Dyer being below the island had a fair view of the river. He saw a number bulge into the water with their blankets on. All sunk before they reached the opposite shore. It was believed that the whole party perished. This good licking caused the Redskins to treat us with more politeness.

In the spring of 1813, the General Government authorized the raising of four companies of mounted Rangers, to protect the Territorial frontier. Captain Shoultz, of Lawrenceburg, (I believe), raised a company; Captain Williamson Dunn of Madison, a company; Captain James Bigger, of Charlestown, a company, and Captain Andrew, of Vincennes, a company. Captain Bigger's company was principally made up of citizens of Clark county, ten or twelve of whom had been shut up in block houses and forts in the Forks for more than a year, mak-

ing nothing, concluded to join his company, and make a business of hunting Indians and guarding their own frontier, as in so doing they would get some pay for their services, otherwise they would not. The pay of a Ranger was a dollar a day, each man "finding himself"; that is each man furnishing his own horse, arms, ammunition and provision,—every man his own commissary.

The soldiers became much attached to each other during their service, and the kindest feeling towards each other seems ever to have existed between them all, except David Barnes and Samuel Ridge, who often fought each other. They were too full of spirits,—very spirited men sometimes. Others again did wrong because they had not spirit enough. Ensign Owen and Richard Lewis marred the good feelings of their comrades by desertion, on the Peoria campaign. It was said by Daniel Williams and others, as an apology for them, that they had caught the Kickapoo fever.

But few of Captain Bigger's company are now living. For the gratification of the few survivors, I publish the "Muster Roll" at whose call they so often answered.

After General Tipton had handled our Red Brethren so roughly on Tipton's Island, (so called,) they were more cautious and sly toward us. No more of our neighbors were killed by them, but occasionally they would ride off a horse that was not their own.

After the four companies of Rangers were organized, it was thought best to carry the war into Egypt. Arrangements were made for a campaign against the Indians, composed of Rangers and a few volunteer Militia. Captains Dunn and Bigger, with part of their companies, and some of Captain Payton's men, (of Kentucky,) together with General Bartholomew and volunteer Militia, were assigned to that duty. They rendezvoused at Valonia about the middle of June, then proceeded under the command of General Bartholomew to the upper towns on the West Fork of White River. The towns had mostly been destroyed before we got there, probably by a company from White Water settlement. We then went down the river to towns not interrupted, and come to Strawtown late in the evening, and discovered fresh Indian signs. Early next morning, General Bartholomew, Captain Dunn, and Captain Shields, and about twenty Ran-

gers, went in pursuit of the Indians. When we had proceeded about three-fourths of a mile we discovered three horses; we surrounded and secured them,—two were hobbled. Following their back track, we came to their camp. General Bartholomew directed three mounted Rangers, namely, Severe Lewis, David Hays and ————, (that is John Ketcham,) to keep in the rear, but at the fire of the first gun to dash forward. Captain Dunn went on the right under cover of the river bank, Captain Shields on the left, and General Bartholomew brought up the center division. The directions were to surround their camp and take them prisoners. The Indians had a large brass kettle hanging over the fire with three deer heads boiling, and were sitting near to the fire. Captain Shields slipped carefully through the bushes, and when opposite the camp, at least one hundred yards distant, the Indians discovered us, jumped to their guns and fled. Shields fired his gun to notify the horsemen. One of Bigger's men, (to-wit, John Ketcham,) immediately started in pursuit, ran two or three hundred yards, when he got into the path the Indians had run on; he was within thirty steps of his game, and shot down the Indian. The other horsemen soon made up, but the other Indian was just out of sight. They were directed by (Ketcham) to where he was last seen. Hays got separated from the other two horsemen and unfortunately met with the secreted Indian, who gave him a mortal wound. The horses and brass kettle were sold to the highest bidder, on a credit, and the notes were given to Hays. His wounds were dressed by David Maxwell. He was carried on a horse litter to the mouth of Flat Rock, now Columbus, where we made two canoes and sent him and a guard by water to Valonia, where his wife and family were. He died in two or three days after they reached the fort.

This is the end of Mr. Ketcham's narrative of the Indian difficulties. He closes his account of his own public life in the following quaint and characteristic style:

In June I enlisted in the United States service, a mounted Ranger. In my first month's service I killed and scalped an Indian—was very proud of it—got leave to go to Kentucky to show it to my Daddy and Mamma—I guess they thought I had done about right. I continued in the service two whole years—saw some hard times—was eighty eight days from my

family on one campaign, and lived seventeen days on seven days' rations.

The war now being ended, Governor Harrison, hearing that I was a fellow of pluck and had killed an Indian, sent me a commission as Associate Judge. I never had much to do on the bench, but was "Judge Ketcham".

In April, 1818, I moved to Monroe county, and built a mill. While mill-building we ground our meal on a hand-mill, there being no other but hand mills in the county. After Bloomington was located, I was solicited to build the Court House, which I did, thirty or forty years ago. It still stands firm. Because I had built a good Court House, and had a sword and several pistols, the people thought I ought to be Colonel. I was so elected and served until I was forty-five years old. But my honors did not stop here. The people knew I had killed an Indian, and had decided three lawsuits in about forty minutes,—they said I must go to the Legislature. I agreed to it. My popularity not high enough yet,—my old friend, Dr. Foster, (God bless him,) who had done some service in defence of his country, knew I had been wounded by the Indians, and had killed and scalped an Indian, went to the Democratic Convention at Indianapolis, and told them what Ketcham had done, and said he must be appointed one of General Jackson's Electors. It was agreed to, and here I am yet, one of General Jackson's Electors.

MUSTER ROLL

Of a Company of U. S. Mounted Rangers, Commanded by Captain James Bigger

Commissioned Officers

Captain, James Bigger
1st Lieutenant, John Carr
2d Lieutenant, James Curry
3d Lieutenant, Wm. Meredith
Ensign, Jack Owens

Non Commissioned Officers

1st Sergt. John Ketcham
2d Sergt. Josiah Williams
3d Sergt. Wm. E. L. Collins
4th Sergt. Jonathan Watkins
5th Sergt. John Herrod

1st Corp. Basil Bowel
2d Corp. William Patrick
3d Corp. Samuel Herrod
4th Corp. Robert Wardle
5th Corp. Andrew B. Holland
6th Corp. Jonathan Gibbons

Privates

Moses Allen
James Allison
Martin Adams
George Armstrong
Luther Beadle
Thomas Bernet
Davis Kelly
William Lindsey
Richard Lewis
John May
John McNaught
John McNight
John Baldwin
John Blair
John Bartholomew
David Barnes
George Bratton
Michael Beam
John Cosner
John Cowen
James Cowen
Isaih Cooper
James Collins
John Cloak
John Clark
Isaac Clark
John R. Clark
John Craig
Stephen Dunlap
Moses Dunlap
John Dunlap
Robert Evans
John Evans
William N. Griffith
William Gainer
John Gibson
John Gibson
James Hay
John D. Hay
William Hiler
Aaron Holeman
Harvey Owen
George W. Owen
Jeremiah Pierceall
Adam Peck
Henry Pearcy
Robert Pearcy
Andrew Perry
Charles F. Ross
George Ross
James Ross
Hugh Ross
John Reed
Thomas Ryan
James Rogers
Isaac Rogers
Lewis Rogers
Samuel Ridge
Thomas Rose
Stephen Shipman
William Stewart
Robert Swany
John Sage
George Ulmer
Reece Williams
Daniel Williams
Thomas Weathers
Martin Wilson
James Wilson

New Recruits

Phillip Hart
Isaac D. Huffman
Hames Herrod
Benjamin Noble
Lewis Cutting
John Flint
Samuel Haslett
——— Jenkins

New Recruits—Continued.

Lewis Hankins
Esram Hutchins
Robert Jones
Jonathan Johnston
Lewis Ketcham
Abraham Kelly
William Kelly
Thomas F. Kelly
James S. Kelly
Levi Nugent
James Mooney
John Milton
Joseph Rawlins
David Studabaker
John Storm
John Sands
James Sands
Elam Whitley

MUSTER ROLL

Of Captain Williamson Dunn's Company of U. S. Rangers

Commissioned Officers

Captain Williamson Dunn
Lieutenant Henry Brinton
Lieutenant Henry Ristine
Lieutenant David Hillis
Ensign Green B. Field

Non Commissioned Officers

Sergeant John Thorn
Sergeant John Danolds
Sergeant Joshua Wilkinson
Sergeant Ebenezer Hillis
Sergeant John Griffin
Corporal Joshua Deputy
Corporal Joseph Strickland
Corporal Peter Ryker
Corporal Andrew J. Storm
Corporal Matthew Cowley
Corporal Willis Law

Privates

Alexander Anderson
John Adkison
Robert Anderson
James Anderson
John Barns
William Blankenship
Maurice Baker
Isaiah Blankenship
David Bigger
Henry Banta
John Bandy
Isaac Bergin
Nathan Chalfant
George Craig
Wiatt Coleman
John Colbert
Benjamin Combs
Isaac Crawford
Elijah Collier
Nathaniel Dunn
John Dunn
Andrew Davidson
William Dickey
John Davis
Hannibal Dougherty
Thomas Davis
Charles Easton
William Farley

Privates—Continued

Samuel T. Gray
Henry Giles
George Gunn
John Guthrie
William Gillmore
William Hamblen
Absalom Hankins
William Johnston
Williamson Irwin
Thomas Jones
James Johnston Jr.
Samuel Long
Severe Lewis
James Lewis
Jacob Lewis
John Lee
Peter Metz
David H. Maxwell
James Monroe
James McCartney
James McCollough
John Maxwell
James McKay
William McKay
George McKay
Robert McKay, 3d
Robert McKay, 4th
Thomas McConnell
John H. Newland
Brackett Owen
Moses Overton
David Patton
John Peters
John Purcell
John Ristine
William Russell
John Ramsey
Peter H. Roberts
William Renis
Gerardus Ryker
John G. Ryker
John Ryker
Jacob Smock
William Sage
John Smith
James Stevens
Samuel Snodgrass
David Stucker
John Shank
Richie Smith
Isaac Short
Henry Salyers
Peter Storm
William D. Stuart
Jacob Trumbo
James Ventioneer
Abraham Varvel
William Wright
Thomas Wise
Daniel Whitaker
Thomas Wendsaw

Campbell to Harrison

Dayton 1st Janury 1813

Har. Pa. 836-837

My dear Sir

In my report to you of the 25th ulto. [see above] from Fort Greenville I omitted to notice some circumstances and individuals inadvertently which and who are as highly worthy of notice as most of those I have already detailed. I must there-

fore in the most especial manner, mention Mr. James Bradshaw, Capt. Lewis Hite and Mr. Silas McCullough, who tendered their services to me on the battle ground to carry inteligence to Greenville of our situation and request a reinforcement of men and a supply of provisions. This dangerous and fatiguing service they performed in the most prompt and expeditious manner. In twenty-two hours they travelled upwards of eighty miles without resting except a few minutes twice to feed their horses and reached Greenville worn down with fatigue and want of sleep. Mr. Bradshaw's activity at Greenville in assisting to forward supplies, merits the highest praise. I must also mention by name Lieut. [Matthew F.] Magee and Ensign Irwin of the Pittsburgh Blues whose cool, deliberate bravery was particularly observed, amidst the hottest fire of the enemy and I regret extremely that these young gentlemen who highly merited distinction, should have been pretermitted in my first report.

I made a mistake in stating that Capt. Smith was abandoned by half his guard, only one or two went in for some part of their arms, staid with their companies, and upon inquiry were found to have behaved well. Capt. Smith was aided in his excellent disposition at the redoubt he commanded by Lieut. Adams and Fishel, whose names and bravery are synonimous terms. Adjutant Guy and Quartermaster Hite, of the Kentucky Light Dragoons are two fine young men, and were actively employed on the morning of the Battle.

I am Sir with great respect your most obt. Servt.

JOHN B. CAMPBELL *Lt. Col. 19th U. S. Regt.*

His Excellency Genl. HARRISON

GENERAL ORDERS

FRANKLINTON, January 2, 1813

Niles' Register III, 331

The commanding general has received from lieut. col. [John B.] Campbell the official report of his late expedition against the Massassineway villages. The conduct of the col. and his gallant detachment has been in every respect such as the general had anticipated. They have deserved well of their country, and have shed a lustre on the Northwestern army. In no part of their duty have they failed. The officers vied

with each other in setting a proper example to their men, and the conduct of the men was marked throughout by cheerfulness alacrity and obedience, upon the march and invincible bravery in the presence of the enemy. The detachment appears to have been worthy of their commander, and their commander worthy of them. Nothing can evince more clearly the merits of Lt. Col. Campbell, than the confidence and attachment manifested for him by his command, an attachment, not produced by any improper indulgence or weak compliances, but established upon the solid basis of a zealous and punctual discharge of his own duty, and a mild, humane but determined exaction of obedience from his subordinates. Troops thus disposed, and thus commanded will be always invincible. Lieut. col. Campbell's official account will be transmitted to the secretary of war; it will be published to the world, and the simple narrative of their actions will form the best eulogium upon the conduct of the troops. The general requests lieut. col. Campbell, lieut. col. Simerall, major Ball, and all the other officers, non-commissioned officers and privates to accept his warmest thanks for their good conduct. The officers, non-commissioned officers and privates, who were fortunate enough to have an opportunity of distinguishing themselves by their valor or good conduct are as follows

Kentucky Dragoons.—Lieut col. Simrall; major M'Dowell; capts. Trotter, (slightly wounded) Smith, Johnson; 1st. lieuts. Hobson, Payne 2d. lieut. Trotter; comd. Dishman; serj. maj. Montgomery, corporal Riddle; trumpeter Willman.

Major Ball's squadron, consisting of 2d regt. U. S. light dragoons, 12 months, U. S. V. dragoons—Major Ball; capts. Hopkins, Garrard, Markle M'Clelland (acting as 2d lieut. to capt. Hopkins); 1st lieuts. Hedges (slightly wounded) Basey; adjt's. Fullerton and Warrens; 2d lieut. Hickman; cornet and quarter-masters M'Clanaha, Lee, Grear (wounded) Herod; serg. maj. Edwards; quarter-master's serj. Hawkins.

Pittsburg Blues, (12 months' U. S. infantry) capt. Butler.

Ninteenth regt. U. S. infantry.—1st lieut. Gwynne, ensign Harrison; quarter-master's serj. Levitt

Spies and Guides—Capt. Patterson Bain, James Audrain, William Conner, Silas M'Culloch, James Thompson, James Naggs, Joseph G. M'Clelland, John Ruland.

Capt. Hite, extra edj't. capt. Luce (volunteer) doctor

Moore; Thomas Moore, P. Secretary; Mr. Baylor; Robert Mitchell, waggoner.

The character of this gallant detachment exhibiting, as it did perseverance, patience, fortitude and bravery, would however, have been incomplete, if, in the midst of victory, they had forgotten the feelings of humanity. It is with the sincerest pleasure, that the general has heard, that the most punctual obedience was paid to his orders; not only in saving the women and children, but in sparing all the warriors who ceased to resist; and that even, when vigorously attacked by the enemy, the claims of mercy prevailed over every sense of their own danger; and this heroic band respected the lives of their prisoners. The general believes that humanity and true bravery are inseparable. The rigid rules of war may sometimes, indeed, make a severe retaliation necessary; but the advantages which attend a frequent recurrence to it, are very uncertain, and are not to be compared with the blessings which providence cannot fail to shed upon the efforts of the soldier, who is "in battle a lion, but, the battle once ended, in mercay a lamb." Let an account of the murdered innocence be opened in the records of Heaven against our enemies alone; the American soldier will follow the example of his government, and neither the sword of the one will be raised against the helpless or the fallen, nor the gold of the other paid for the scalp of a massacred enemy.

The general cannot pass by the opportunity that is afforded him, by bestowing deserved commendation upon a detachment of his army, without recurring to the merits of the other corps. They have not had, as yet, their wishes gratified in meeting the enemy; but they have, nevertheless, performed hard service under great deprivations. The Ohio brigades are exerting themselves with vigor and effect in perfecting their discipline and performing some works requiring great labor. Those from Virginia and Pennsylvania are vieing with each other in the path of duty and discipline, to a degree rarely equalled and never excelled. Since their arrival at Sandusky, a proper sense of subordination everywhere prevails, and the infamous principle, that the claims of patriotism would be satisfied by marching to the lines and looking at the enemy, is so completely exploded, that the general believes his authority would be scarcely sufficient to protect from the vengeance of the

soldier the wretch who should have the temerity to insult them by suggesting it. The general is happy in believing that his own Kentuckians are not behind the other corps of the army in the race of patriotism and duty. He has heard with a satisfaction that he cannot find words to express, that the brigade with which he first took the field, and whose discipline has been confirmed and extended under the immediate direction of his worthy second, general Winchester, have borne with fortitude and cheerfulness an unexampled privation of a principle article of the ration. The general records the circumstances for the edification and example of the rest of the army. Calculating upon the arrival of flour by the Auglaize and St. Mary's rivers, upon which a large quantity had been embarked under appearances indicating a most favorable termination of the voyage no means were used to forward any by land; but by a very sudden and unexpected freezing of the rivers, the boats were arrested in progress and the troops of Fort Winchester, consisting of a detachment of regulars under col. Wells; Scott's, Lewis's and Allen's regiments of Kentucky infantry, subsisted for ten days upon indifferent salt beef, without an ounce of flour. In this time not a murmur was heard, and the sentiment which every where prevailed was that of continuing to serve as long as their services were wanted. What may not be expected from such troops, when the only difficulties of the campaign are once overcome, and they are brought in the presence of the enemy?

L. HUKILL, *Asst. Dep. Adj. Gen.*

A report of the number rendered unfit for duty by being frostbitten, as appears from the reports on the morning of the 24th Inst. viz:

In Major Ball's squadron	107
Colonel Semrall's regiment	138
Infantry and riflemen	58
Total	303

JOHN PAYNE, *first lieutenant,*
Kentucky V. L. D. and adj't to detachment

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 29)

HEAD QUARTERS FRANKLINTON 3d January 1813

Har. Pa. 813-814

I have the honor to enclose you herewith, the official report of Lt. Col. [John B.] Campbell of his expedition against the Mississineway towns of the 25th ulto. and 1st Inst. [see under these dates above] I am entirely satisfied with the Colonel's conduct and beg leave to recommend him, Major [James V.] Ball and the rest of the officers and soldiers of the regiment who were fortunate enough to have an opportunity of distinguishing themselves, to the notice of the President. I will venture to predict that Colo. Campbell's future career will support the character he has obtained in the commencement of his military service. Major Ball, my friend and associate in Genl. Wayne's army, would do honor to any service. Lt. Colo. [James] Simrall deserves great credit for the excellent discipline of his Regiment which perhaps equals that of any other Regiment of Lt. Dragoons on the Continent. The character of Major [Joseph] McDowell[1] has long been established in Kentucky for Intrepidity at an age when most men retire to the enjoyment of ease, this hardy veteran solicits every post of difficulty, fatigue and danger, with the ardour of a youthful warrior. The conduct of the other officers is so particularly described by Col. Campbell that it is unnecessary for me to repeat them. Knowing each individual I heartily accord in the sentiments he has expressed of their merits. There is however a circumstance which Col. Campbell has neglected to mention, that too so honorable to a young hero, now no more, as well as to the army, that I cannot pass it over. Major [Joseph] McDowell, Capt. [Wm] Trotter and Capt. [Lewis] Hite have all informed me that Lieut. [Daniel] Waltz of Capt. Marcles Troop of Volunteer Dragoons like the gallant Spencer, could not be brought to leave his post, after having received two wounds, one of which shattered his arm. In this situation he was mounting his horse to make a charge when a ball passed through his head. In short Sir, the whole

1. Joseph McDowell was adjutant general of the Kentucky troops; born in Va. Sept. 13, 1768, moved to Ky. 1784; served under Scott, 1791, and Wayne, 1794, and throughout the war of 1812. His plantation was near Lexington, where he lived till his death Jan. 27, 1856—87 yrs. of age.

Young, *Battle of Thames, 163*

Detachment have redeemed a solemn pledge given to me at the moment of their departure that they would obey their officers and support the character of American Soldiers.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect Sir

Yr Humb Svt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honorable JAMES MONROE *Esqr. Acting Secy. of War*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

No. 30

Head Qrs. N. W. Army FRANKLINTON 4th Jany. 1813

Har. Pa. 838-849

SIR:

Upon my return from Chilicothe to Upper Sandusky your favor of the 26th ulto (no. 1) overtook me at this place. [see Nov. 26, above]

My letters and papers being all at Sandusky I have it not in my power to recur to them but from my recollection of its contents I regret that a letter which I addressed to the Secretary of War from Delaware about the 12th ult. [see Dec. 12, 13, above] had not been received before yours of the 26th was written. In that letter I stated the causes which had retarded our progress towards Detroit, my then prospects and which might under various circumstances be expected from this Army. When I was directed to take the command in the latter end of September I thought it possible by great exertions to effect the objects of the Campaign before the setting in of winter. I distinctly stated however to the Secretary of War that there was always a period of rainy weather in this country in the months of November and December in which the roads within the settlements were almost impassable and the swamps which extend Northwardly from about the fortieth Degree of Lattitude entirely so and that this circumstance would render it impossible to advance with the army before that period without exposing it to inevitable destruction unless a sufficiency of provisions could be taken on to subsist it untill the severe frosts should remover the impediments to transportation. The experience of a few days was sufficient to convince me that the supplies of provisions could not be procured for an autumnal advance and even if this difficulty were removed another of eaqual magnitude existed

from the want of artillery, there remained then no alternative but to prepare for a winters campaign. But in order to take advantage of every circumstance in our favor Boats and Perogues were prepared in considerable numbers upon the Auglaize and St. Marys Rivers in the hope that when the land transportation could not be used we might by the means of these rivers take on very large supplies to the Rapids of the Miami. An effort was made also to procure flour from Presquille by coasting the lake with small boats. These measures were calculated on as collateral aids only. The more safe one of providing a large number of pack horses and ox teams was resorted to and the Depty. Q. M. General Colo. [James] Morrison was instructed accordingly.

Considering the Miami Ripids as the first point of destination provisions were ordered to be accumulated along a concave base extending from St. Marys (Called in the map Girtys Town) on the left to the mouth of the Huron (and afterwards Lower Sandusky) on the right. From this base the rapids could be approached by three routes or lines of operation, two of which were pretty effectually secured by the posts which were established and the positions taken upon the third. St. Marys, McArthurs Block house (fourty four miles in advance of Urbanna) and upper Sandusky were selected as principal deposits.

The Troops excepting those with General Winchester were kept within the bounds of the local contractors that they might not consume the provisions procured by the U. S. Commissaries and which were intended to form the grand deposit at the Miami Rapids. It was not untill late in October that much effect could be given to these arrangements and for the six following weeks little or nothing could be done from the uncommon unfavorable state of the weather affording just rain enough to render the roads almost impassable for waggons and yet not a sufficiency to raise the waters to a navigable state. Great exertions were however made to prepare for the change which might reasonably be expected and the last twenty days of December were entirely favorable to our views and so well employed by Colo. Morrison as to afford the most flattering prospects of being able to take on to the rapids early in this month a sufficiency of provisions and stores to authorize an advance upon Malden from the 25th Inst. to the 10th

of Feby. Our hopes were again a little checked by a general thaw succeeded by a very deep snow whilst the ground was in that soft state. It is however now cold again and we calculate upon being able to use with effect the sleds a considerable number of which I had caused to be prepared. The instructions which I received from the Secretary Mr. Eustis with regard to the conduct of the war in this Department amounted to a complete *Carte Blanche*. The principal objects of the campaign were pointed out and I was left at liberty to proceed to their full execution during the present winter or to make arrangements for their accomplishment in the Spring by occupying such posts as might facilitate the intended operations.

The wishes of the Government to recover the ground that had been lost and to conquer upper Canada were however expressed in such strong terms and the funds which were placed at my disposal were declared to be so ample (if not unlimited) that I did not consider myself authorized to adopt the alternative of delay from any other motive but that of the safety of the army. My letters have contained frequent alusions to the monstrous expense which would attend the opperations of an army at this season of the year penetrating to the enemy through an immense forest of one hundred and fifty miles. The silence of the Secty. on this subject left me no room to doubt the correctness of the opinion which I had at first formed, i. e. that the object in view was considered so important that expense was to be disregarded.

I thought it best however to come to a full understanding on the subject and with this view my letter of the 12th ulto. (as I think) from Delaware was written.

My plan of operations has been and now is, to occupy the Miami rapids and to deposit there as much provisions as possible.

To move from thence with a chosen detachment of the army and with as much provision, artillery and ammunition as the means of transportation will allow, make a demonstration towards Detroit and by a sudden passage of the Straight upon the Ice an actual investure of Malden. In the letter from Delaware above aluded to I explained my objections to the occupancy of Detroit untill Malden should fall. The latter in the hands of the enemy with a disposable force of half the

size of that with which we should advance to the former would place us completely in a *cul de sac*. With regard to the amount of force which such an expedition would require—I have made my calculations not upon that which the enemy might have at Malden at the time that the enterprize should commence but upon what they would be able to assemble there in time enough to resist us. I know the facility with which troops may be brought at this Season by what is called the back route along the River Thames from the vicinity of Niagara to Detroit and Malden. Had General [Alexander] Smyth's[1] attempt been successful my plans could have been executed with a much smaller force than I should deem it prudent to employ under present circumstances. I have indeed no doubt that we shall encounter at Malden the verry troops which contended with Genl. Van Ranselare on the hights of Queenstown. It is the same thing with regard to the Indians. The British have wisely dismissed the greater part of them to save their provisions but a whistle will be almost sufficient to collect them again.

There is another consideration which must have considerable influence in determining the number of men necessary to make an atempt upon Malden—it is this, that the number of Indians and Canadians which will be opposed to us will be in an inverse ratio to the force which we employ. To destroy a small army the timid the wavering and the cautious will all turn out, but if our force is such as to create a belief that its operations will be successful boath those description of people will stand aloof ready to take the side that may prove victorious.

But the quantom of force necessary for the enterprize against Malden may be greatly lessened by our having the means of transportation at the Rapids to take on at once the Atillery. Stores and a sufficiency of provisions to last untill the object is effected but if the supplies are to be taken on at several trips large escorts (amounting themselves to small armies) will be necessary, more time will be required and consequently a much larger quantity of provisions wanted. Such is the nature of Indian warfare that it is impossible to tell where the storm will fall. It is a rule therefore with me

1. Alexander Smyth was inspector gen. of the army and second in command under Van Rensselaer on the Niagara frontier. He succeeded to the command. For an account of his fiasco see Lossing, *Field Book War of 1812, 427 seq.*

when operating against them never to make a detachment neither to the front or rear which is not able to contend with their whole force. From this statement you will perceive Sir how difficult it would be for me at present to ascertain with any degree of correctness the number of men with which I should advance from the Rapids. It was my intention to have assembled there from four thousand five hundred to five thousand men and to be governed by circumstances in forming the Detachment with which I should advance. This is still my plan and it was always my intention to dismiss at that period all that I deemed superflous. The nature of our fortifications (upon the frontiers) requires a much larger force for their protection than would be requisite if they were capable of resisting artillery; a few hundred Indians assisted by half a dozen British matrosses and a six pounder would take any of them. Notwithstanding the large nominal amount of the army under my command their sufferings for the want of clothing and the rigor of the season renders the effective number of less than two thirds of the agregate. You will read with as much pain as I write it that a fine body of regular troops belonging to the 17th and 19th Regts. under Col. [Samuel] Wells[2] has nearly been destroyed for the want of clothing. The whole of the effective men upon this frontier does not exceed six thousand three hundred infantry.

Upon the whole sir my reaching Malden during the winter depends upon a circumstance which I cannot controle viz: the freezing of the straight in such a manner as to enable me to pass over the Troops and Artillery. I have explained to you my objections to making any attempts upon Detroit untill Malden should be taken—should however my view of the subject be incorrect I will cheerfully undertake whatever you may direct—and must request you to determine whether it would be proper to advance to Detroit if the openness of the Winter and other causes should in my opinion render an attempt upon Malden improper? Genl. Winchester is I hope now or will in a day or two be at the rapids. Provisions in large quantities are progressing thither. I calculate upon being there myself by the 20th Inst. with the troops which are intended for the march upon Malden.

In the event of the occurrence of circumstances which may induce a suspension of operations beyond the Rapids, Meas-

ures will be taken to make and to secure at that place a deposit of provisions equal to the support of the Troops in any enterprize that may be undertaken in the spring.

Should our offensive operations be suspended untill that time it is my decided opinion that the most effectual and cheapest plan will be to obtain the command of the lake. This being once effected every difficulty will be removed. An army of four thousand men landed on the north side of the Lake below Malden will soon reduce that place and retake Detroit—and with the aid of the Fleet proceed down the lake to cooperate with the army from Niagara. The enterprize against the Queen Charlotte has been meditated and shall not escape my attention. My anxiety to get off this Letter in time enough to reach Chilicothe for the mail tomorrow has obliged me to write it with a precipitancy which may have prevented me giving all the explanations required. I will however reperuse it tomorrow and will have the honor of writing to you again previously to my setting out for Sandusky.

The object of my visit to Chilicothe was to consult with Gov Meiggs upon the means of raising a mounted force for another expedition to Mississineway. This subject shall also be noticed.

I am sorry not to be able to agree with my friend Col. [Richard M.] Johnson upon the propriety of the contemplated mounted expedition. An expedition of this kind directed against a particular Town would probably succeed. The Indian Towns cannot be surprised in succession as they give the alarm from one to the other with much more rapidity than our troops can move. In the months Feby. March and April the towns are all abandoned the men are hunting and the women and children (particularly to the north of the Wabash) are scattered about making sugar. The corn is at that season universally hid in small parcells in the earth and could not be found. There is no considerable Indian Villages in that direction, and those that are there composed of bark hutts which the Indians do not care for and which during the winter are entirely empty.

The Detachment might pass thro the whole extent of country to be scoured without seeing an Indian, but at the first Town they struck and it is more than probable that they would find *it* empty. But the expedition is impracticable to

the extent proposed. The Horses if not the men would perish The Horses which are now to be procured are not like those of the early settlers, and such as the Indians and traders now have. They have been accustomed to corn and must have it. Col. [James B.] Campbell went about seventy miles from the frontiers and the greater part of his horses could scarcely be brought in. Such an expedition in the summer and fall would be highly advantageous because the Indians are at their Towns and their corn can then be destroyed. An attempt upon a particular town in the winter when the Inhabitants are in it (as we know they are at Mississineway) and which is so near as to enable the Detachment to reach it and return without killing their Horses is not only practicable but if there is snow on the ground is perhaps the most favorable time and small parties might be employed to great advantage searching for and attacking their hunting camps.

I have the honor to be with greatest respect Sir Yr. Hb. Sevt.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

JAMES MONROE Esqr.

HARRISON TO SEC. OF WAR

No. 31

Head Qrs. N. W. Army FRANKLINTON, 6th Jany. 1813.

Har. Pa. 850-867

SIR:

Since I had the honor to write to you yesterday [see Jan. 4, above] I have had a conversation with the Deputy. Qu. Master General Colo. [James] Morrison, he is decidedly of opinion that the means of transportation now in his possession will enable him to supply the army with provisions and to take on the artillery and stores necessary for the operations against Malden unless the Winter should be uncommonly open. At this moment the appearances in relation to the weather are extremely unfavorable. Our preparations are however so well advanced that we shall be able to take advantage of a change which the season authorises us to expect and with three weeks of severe frost to make a deposit of provisions at the Rapids of Miami sufficient to authorize the advance of the army from that point. If our expectations on this subject are disappointed, longer perseverance in attempting to reach the principal object of our wishes (the reduction of Malden) during

the winter will as you observe consume our provisions and resources in vain efforts and however reluctant I may be to abandon hopes which have been formed as well upon the confidence I have in the troops I command as the State of our actual preparations I will submit to the hard necessity and direct my thoughts towards an economical disposition of the troops for the winter and an arrangement of supplies calculated for early and vigorous operations in the spring. A suspension of the operations of this army for the winter without having accomplished the principal object for which it was embodied is an event which has been looked for by most of the well informed men who know the character of the country and recollect that the army of Genl. Wayne after a whole summers preparation was unable to advance more than seventy miles from the Ohio and that the prudent caution of Genl. Washington had directed it to be placed in winter quarters at the very season that our arrangements were commenced.

You do me justice in believing that my exertions have been unremitted, and I am as yet sensible of the commission of one error only, that has injuriously affected our interests and that is the retaining of too large a force at Defiance. The disadvantages attending it were however seen at the period of my committing the management of that wing to Genl. Winchester possessing a superior rank in the line of the army to that which was tendered to me I considered him rather in the light of an associate in command than an Inferior. I therefore recommended to him, instead of ordering it, to send back two Regiments within the bounds of White's contract. Had this measure been pursued there would have been at Fort Winchester (Defiance) one hundred thousand Rations more than there is at present. The Genl. who possesses the most esteemed qualities of the head and heart was deceived as I was with regard to the period when the army could advance but he did not think that the reduction of issues would be so important as it is now ascertained they would have been.

As the greater part of the expenses of the campaign have been already incurred, I beg leave to assure you Sir that trifling difficulties will not oppose the progress of the army to Malden, but at the same time I also promise you that no measure shall be adopted where the prospects of success are not as clear as they can be in any military operations. I know

not what measures can be adopted to make a diversion in our favor or to prevent the enemy from sending reinforcements to Malden from Erie and Fort George. After what has happened at Niagara it having been published to the world that the militia in that quarter would not cross the line the British will certainly view as a feint and not regard any movements of the regular Troops there of whose numbers they must be well informed. With such a force as I can select from this army however, provided I can find the means of transporting their provisions and the Artillery, I should not fear to encounter the force which they now have in the upper district when reinforced by that which they dare spare from below.

That I may be better understood and that you may be enabled to correct the errors of my opinions and reasoning I will now state as briefly as possible what appears to me to be the advantages and disadvantages which will attend an attack upon Malden in the three modes by which only it can be approached. The first is that which is now in contemplation—of advancing in the midst of winter and crossing the Straight upon the ice. The objections are that in an enterprize of this kind in a climate so rigorous the troops would suffer greatly; that unused to subordination it might be impossible to make them bear such hardships; that in some winters the ice is not sufficiently strong to bear an army and artillery; and that some times when it is so a few warm days will suddenly open up a channel in the Straight and thereby prevent our passage after we shall have arrived under appearances which promise a safe one or that having passed the communication with the rear may be cut off and thus making it necessary to take over with the army everything which it may require in a siege, at the same time a circumstance which it may not be in our power to effect. That the operations of a seige in Winter are very difficult and that in case of any disaster the retreat of the army might be impracticable from the uncertainty of the continuance of the ice as above stated. The advantages of this plan of attack are That the roads being frozen are passable for artillery and baggage notwithstanding the swampy nature of the country. That with light sleds the men might draw their own baggage upon the ice, that the principal object of the campaign could be accomplished sooner and consequently with less expense than by waiting untill spring and

that whatever might be the case with the regular and militia force of the enemy we should certainly have fewer Indians to contend with.

The 2nd plan is that of marching to Detroit at any time when the preparations can be made, building a sufficiency of boats and passing the army over in that manner. There are no peculiar advantages attending this mode of proceeding and the disadvantages are numerous. It would require a much longer time to effect it and consequently much more provisions and as much greater number of men as each convoy must have an escort capable of contending at least with the whole of the Indian force of the enemy. The third plan is that of creating a naval force capable of commanding the Lake and with it to transport as soon as the navigation opens the army artillery and Baggage to some point on the north shore below Malden and from thence to commence operations against Malden and Detroit.

I have no means of estimating correctly the cost of a naval armament capable of effecting this object but from my knowledge of the cost of transporting supplies thru a swampy wilderness I do believe that expense which will be incurred in six weeks in the spring in an attempt to transport the provisions for the army along the road leading from the rapids to Detroit would build and equip the vessels for the purpose. In point of time there could not be three weeks difference in the accomplishment of the objects in regard to Malden and Detroit between this plan and that of the land route in the spring round the head of the Lake and if the taking of Malden and Detroit were alone the object the former would I presume be preferable in every point of view. There is however another consideration which will make it necessary to obtain the naval superiority upon the upper lakes i. e. the retaking of Macinac and the driving the British from their other establishments in Lake Michigan and the entrance of Lake Superior. It is from those sources that the means of annoyance to our frontiers will be furnished to the Indians and that expeditions the most to be dreaded of any others, that they can undertake will be set on foot. The southwardly direction of Lake Michigan running deep into our country approaches Fort Wayne, the settlements upon the Wabash, and those of the Illinois River. Unless we can find the means of driving the

enemy from Lake Michigan early in the Spring an immense Indian force aided by British cannon and artillerists will be assembled at the southwardly bend of that lake and its operations will be directed against Fort Wayne, Vincennes or the Illinois. As it will be impossible to tell where the storm will fall it will require an army at each of these points to protect them. Malden and Detroit may fall but those posts are not material to Macinac and St. Joseph the supplies for which and for the support of the Indians in that quarter are drawn from Montreal by means of the Grand River. All the Indians north of the Wabash can be supplied with the means of continuing the war at Chicago much easier than from Malden. Montreal will be taken perhaps by our main army but this will not probably be untill the opening of the navigation in the spring. The first of which is always made use of to forward the supplies for the Indians by the canoe route to the Lakes Michigan and Superior and should we not have the means of destroying their power in those Lakes even if we shall succeed in taking Malden and Detroit and Montreal they will possess and will make use of the means of annoying us from thence to an extent that will give us great trouble. The facility of attacking Fort Wayne by an Indian force collected at Chicago aided by British artillery from Macinac was seen by the Indians of that quarter and it would have been attempted last fall if there had been time enough.

That the idea still exists and that it will be renewed the ensuing spring and extended to embrace an attack upon our settlements upon the Wabash and Illinois and upon Fort Madison also by the route of Fox river and the Ouisconsing I have not the least doubt. All that the British will risk will be a few peices of artillery and twenty or thirty of their Troops to each of the Divisions of Indian force. As I before observed the taking of Malden and Montreal will have no effect upon their operations for the succeeding summer. The Remedy lies in having the command of the lakes and providing as soon as Malden falls to take Macinac and restore Chicago. You may rely upon it Sir that the intentions of the British have always been such as are now stated.

A very short time will enable me to determine upon the propriety of our advance upon Malden during the present winter. In the meantime may I hope for your instructions?

Possessed as you will be of all the reasons which will govern my conduct in the choice of measures which I have contemplated you will be enabled to correct any error they may contain.

Operations against the hostile Indians during the winter is a subject which has never ceased to occupy my attention and the expedition under Lieut. Col. [John B.] Campbell was intended to distroy the only hostile establishments which I conceived to be within the reach of an effectual stroke at this season. His being unable to distroy the principal town from a greater accumulation of Indian force in the neighbourhood of it than we had reason to expect determined me immediately to organize another detachment for the purpose. It was with the intention of obtaining the assistance of Gov. Meiggs in procuring some volunteer corps of mounted men that I visited Chilicothe. With the promptitude which has every distinguished him in complying with my requests he agreed to organize as secretly as possible five hundred men to be joined to the Dragoons which served under Lt. Col. Campbell and to commence their march in four or five weeks by which time I expected that the Dragoons would be sufficiently recruited. But upon receiving a statement of their situation I was convinced that the Kentucky dragoons would not be able to render any effectual service untill their term of service would expire. I have therefore directed the five Troops composing [James] Simralls Regt. to be discharged. Major [James V.] Ball with his squadron consisting of Capt. [Samuel G.] Hopkin's Troop of U. S. Light Dragoons Capt. [Abraham] Markles and [William] Garrards Twelve Months Volunteers and a small detachment of Michigan volunteers for the same period and a detachment of Pennsylvania six months dragoons amounting to about 281 men are ordered into a favorable situation to recruit and altho a great many of the men are very severly frost bitten and the Horses very much reduced the Major gives me hopes of having them ready for active service in the course of four or five weeks. The expedition contemplated from Kentucky may however supercede the necessity of that which I was preparing. But I am still of the opinion given yesterday that no attempt upon the enemy beyond Missisineway would be attended with any advantage if it did not end in the destruction of the Detachment employed to

execute it. I again repeat that the Indians are not at this season to be found in their towns. That they invariably take their Families with them upon their hunting excursions and that their provisions are always buried in small parcels each family hiding its own. Col. Campbell destroyed these villages and did not get a feed of corn a piece for his horses.

I have always calculated upon being able to keep Three Regiments of the Kentucky troops in service as long as they shall be wanted.

These troops I am convinced would not leave me as long as there was any prospect of active service but if the operations of army are suspended for the winter they will insist upon being discharged at the termination of the period for which they were engaged. The term of the Ohio Troops will also expire in Feby. Those from Virginia and Pennsylvania in March. It is probable that some twelve months volunteers may be procured from them. I have offered to give such as may engage a twelve months volunteers credit for the time they have served in the militia.

In making an estimate of the number of men which may be requisite for the insuing spring my calculations could be governed in a great degree by the determination of the Government upon the subject of obtaining the command of the upper Lakes. That object effected It would in my opinion not require more than five thousand men for the Garison of the posts upon this frontier and for the reduction of Malden and Detroit, a few troops for defencive purposes only would answer at Vincennes and in the Illinois territory. In the event however of our being unable to destroy the British power on Lake Michigan early in the Spring It will be necessary to cover those places as well as Fort Wayne each with an army of some thousands.

Provisions have been purchased and are now in progress toward the Rapids and Sandusky for Ten Thousand men for one year. If the advance of the Troops should be stoped for the winter these supplies will be placed upon the St. Marys, Auglaize, Blanchard's fork and Sandusky River, and boats provided to take them down upon the first raise of the waters in the Spring, an arrangement that will save a great expense of transportation.

I am not informed of the position in which the Queen Char-

lotte and other armed vessels are laid up—if the attempt upon Malden should be abandoned for the winter I will spare no pains to ascertain their situation and endeavor to effect their destruction. I have requested Govr. Shelby to direct the discharge of all the Troops that served under Genl. [Samuel] Hopkins one Battalion excepted to be placed under the command of Colo. [William] Russell.

Capt. [Charles] Gratiott of the Engineers who has charge of a few pieces of artillery and the carriages for all those which have been previously forwarded—as well as a quantity of stores and ammunition has met with great difficulty from the badness of the roads. He will I hope reach Sandusky in a few days. By a Letter received from him some time since I learn that the carriages of all the Twelve pounders are entirely unfit for service being so rotten that they were eternally breaking down.

In my letter of yesterday I mentioned the nakedness of the Regular Troops under Colo. [Samuel] Wells a part of the clothing has arrived here the ballance of it is I fear arested by the ice on the Ohio. There has certainly been great negligence upon the part of some person in relation to this clothing. The Troops marched from Kentucky in August to relieve Genl. Hull and the Clothing for them left Philadelphia late in November. I beg leave also to mention to you that by the unpardonable negligence of the officer who examined and received them from the manufactury the axes which have been sent on to this army are so worthless that not above one in a dozen will stand the cutting of a stick six inches in diameter without breaking.

The recruiting rendezvous in this State are entirely without clothing.

Upon the authority which I had received from the Secy. of War I ordered the recruits raised in Tennessee for Col. Andersons Regiment to march to this army. The Colo. Was upon the point of obeying the order when another arrangement from the war office superceeded it. I have been since informed that he was ordered to Newport. As the engagement of volunteers for 12 months to the extent that will be necessary to supply the place of the Militia that will be discharged is very uncertain. I would beg leave to recommend that Colo. [William P.] Anderson if he has not already received an order

to that effect, be directed to Newport there to receive my orders. I hope that clothing will be sent on for them. Nothing can be more distressing than to see soldiers naked at this season and nothing can certainly be more hurtful to the public service.

It will give you some idea of the dificulties of transporting the supplies for the army in this country when you are informed that the Q. M. is obliged to discharge corn below Chilicothe to make a deposit of forage at U. Sandusky a distance of one hundred and twenty miles.

I should be gratified if the President should think proper to confer a Brevet of Colonel on Lt. Col. Campbell and of Lt. Col. on Major Ball. They are both highly deserving officers. The promotion of the latter would be highly beneficial to the service as his rank at present does not authorize my giving him the command of a detachment for which there are few in the army as well qualified. Besides the U. S. Dragoons, he has the command of the 12 mo. volunteers, whose affection and confidence he has acquired to a degree rarely equalled, by his bravery, firmness humanity and indefatigable attention to his duty. I shall do myself the honor of writing to you again upon my arrival at Sandusky.

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir Yr. Obt. Svt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble. JAMES MONROE, *Esqr. Acting Secty. of War*

DAY TO HARRISON

OTTER CREEK, Jan. 12, 1813

Har. Pa. 899

SIR:

I have taken the liberty to send per express to inform you that the enimy are apprised of your being at the Rapids and have removed all the friends of our government to Malden Prison and at present we are beset with spies. I expect the Guard to search for me every moment. I have agreeably to my order from W. Shields your acting contractor engaged fifty barrels of flour and two hundred bushells of wheat. If you Sir see proper to send a detachment of cavalry and riflemen with arms and ammunition for thirty men for this place we can secure, it is supposed, three thousand Barrells of Flour and a great quantity of corn and wheat. There is but 40 or

50 soldiers garrisoned at the River Raison and not one hundred savages; there is not one thousand English French and savages at Malden.

If you do not come tomorrow or the next day you will not find a man at this place. The English are collecting all the savages to rally at the River Raisin for the purpose of giving battle, they are engaging sleighs to transport the flour and grain to their pandora's box, Malden. Five hundred true and brave Americans can secure the District of Erie—A timely approach of our armies will secure us from being forced to prison and the whole place from being burned by savage fury.

Your Humble Servt.

ISAAC DAY[1]

To His Excellency GOVR HARRISON

Half past two o'clock

P.S. Please to excuse this scrol as I write in the woods without a fire.

I certify that the above is a correct copy

NATH. F. ADAMS, *Depy. Ajt. Gen.*

GIBSON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

VINCENNES, Jan 13th, 1813

Har. Pa. 251

SIR:

In my last, I had the honor of informing you, that I had dispatched an express to General [Samuel] Hopkins upon the subject of the Battalion of Kentucky detached Militia's remaining here. Since when I have received the General's answer, who adhering to his first determination upon this subject, the Battalion were the other day discharged and have generally returned home. The Gen. proposed to me to hire the Battalion to stay (provided the men and officers would consent to remain) by advancing to them two months pay. This I declined, seeing the great confusion that would arise in the Adjustment of the accounts. We are now left without any effective force except a few Regular Troops and a few Rangers which has induced me to determine to keep the whole of the Militia of the Territory upon the alert; and at the first intimation of actual danger to order into service three companies

1. Isaac Day was a resident of Detroit as early as 1806.

of the Territorial Militia for the protection of the Frontiers. I am still in hopes that Gen. Harrison has been or will be successful in his expedition against Malden, and if so, that I shall not be drove to the disagreeable necessity of calling out the Militia.

Inclosed herewith I have the honor of transmitting you Two Bonds which were lodged in my hands by order of Governor Harrison i. e. that of Tho. S. Wingate as Quarter Master and George Harrison as Pay Master to the 8th Reg, of Kentucky detached Militia.

I should be extremely sorry to be considered troublesome but as I have latterly frequently heard of certain persons expressing an opinion that the Governor of this Territory possessed no command other than as respects his own Militia; I will thank you to give me your opinion, whether or not all the forces in the Territory are not subject to his orders.

Intending to proceed in the Removal of Fort Knox to Vincennes so soon as the weather will permit I have taken the liberty of ordering Captain [John T.] Chunn[1] and Lieut. [Robert] Buntin [Jr] to remain here until your further orders, in as much as officers are necessary to command the Garrison and others for the necessary fatigue parties. And there are none others now here except Ensign [Thomas] Hawkins. Should this step not meet your approbation you will please to inform me, when Messrs Chunn and Buntin, should you so direct, can repair to and join their respective companies.

I have the honor to be with considerations of Respect etc.

Sir,

Your Obedient and Humble Servant

JOHN GIBSON

The Honble. The Secretary of War

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

No. 33

HEAD QUARTERS U. SANDUSKY 15 Jany. 1813

Har. Pa. 868, 869

SIR:

The weather and roads have been so favorable for some

1. Capt. John F. Chunn of O. belonged to the 19th U. S. Inf. He served through the war of 1812 and was discharged June 1, 1821. He was born in Maryland in 1780 and died on his farm on Brouillette's creek near Clinton, Ind., in 1847.

Gookins, *Hist. Vigo County, 43 (1880)*

days past and the provisions and stores accumulating so fast at this place and Lower Sandusky that I have the most flattering prospects of being able to advance from the Rapids against the enemy in the first week of February. Thirty or forty thousand dollars in Gold or Silver will be wanted to purchase such supplies as the settlements about Detroit and Malden will afford. Should you think proper to forward this sum to the army the route by Pittsburgh and Cleaveland to Lower Sandusky will be the proper one from which latter place it will be sent in charge of one of those large escorts which must necessarily follow the army.

Having understood that it was probable the Regular Army will be increased at this session of Congress I must take the liberty of recommending to you for the appointment of Major of Infantry Lieut. Levi Hukill of the first Regiment U. S. Light Dragoons Asst. Dy. Ajt. Genl. to this army. Mr. Hukill has been in my family for some weeks and I have derived great advantage from his assiduity and knowledge of his profession. His attention has not been confined to the duties of his own corps but extended in some degree to every other in the army and those which are peculiar to the Infantry. His attainments are perhaps eaqual to those of any Field officer in the service. Mr. Hukill was for some time Brig. Q. Mr. to Gen. [Wade] Hampton and I have seen a letter from that officer and another from his Colonel [Leonard] (Covington) in which he is spoken of in the highest terms.

I have the honor to be with great respect

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble. JAMES MONROE *Actg. Secty. of War*

ENDORSEMENT OF HARRISON

COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP, HAMILTON
County, O. Jan. 16, 1813

Dawson, *Harrison, Ap. Note 7*

Gen. WM. H. HARRISON

Dear Sir: The anxiety of your fellow citizens has been excited, (and we hope you will pardon our intruding a few lines on you, which were drawn up in haste at a large meeting of the citizens of Hamilton and Clermont counties, for the particulars of which we refer you to the *Liberty Hall,*) to find

you intend to retire from the command of our army at the expiration of the present campaign.

With deep regret do we contemplate the discontent that will prevail in the army, by your withdrawing from a station which your presence seems indispensably necessary for a continuance of that discipline and harmony, and implicit confidence, which we feel confident no other commander which government may please to appoint will ensure. We have therefore been constrained to address you in this way, as a manifestation of our ardent wishes for you to continue the command until we shall by petition obtain a commission for you which shall place you at the head of the north-western army during the present war.

When we reflect on your past life, the honourable stations you have filled with unremitted zeal and fidelity, the general satisfaction which has prevailed wherever your authority has extended, your known attachment to liberty and the honour and good weal of your country, we anticipated a favourable answer from you, that you will devote a few more days or years in the service of your country. You, Sir, are aware of the necessity of a beloved commander in an army, the great advantage of soldiers obeying for love above that of fear; the presence of a beloved general animating his men by good example, adds fresh vigour to the war-worn soldier, warms their hearts, and arms them with undaunted courage, and they will perform to admiration—such scenes you, Sir, have experienced, and they will ever be held in grateful remembrance by your friends and your country. By order of the meeting,

JOHN ARMSTRONG, *Chairman*

DAVID M'GAUGHEY, *Secretary*

HARRISON TO WINCHESTER

HEADQUARTERS U. SANDUSKY, 16 Jany. 1813, 9 ock. p. m.

SIR:

I have waited with great anxiety to hear from you for some days past; that I might put in motion the supplies destined for the Rapids, which have arrived here in large quantities, and for which a new road now passable by pack-horses is opening into Hull's trace. A copy of your letter to Genl. [Simon] Perkins of the 15th this moment received, gave me

the first information of your arrival at the Rapids. I have sent Capt. Forsyth to you to bring me to lower Sandusky, for which place I shall set out in the morning, information as to your situation and designs.

I am very respectfully
Yr. Obt. Servt.
WM. HENRY HARRISON

Brig. Gen. WINCHESTER, *Comd. Left Wing. N. W. Army*

True Copy
HUKILL, *Aid de Camp*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT January 17th, 1813.

Har. Pa. 48-50

Br. General WM. H. HARRISON SIR:

I have just had the honor to receive your letter of January 4th [see above] dated Franklinton, in answer to mine of the 26th ultimo. [see above]

Your letter of the [?] ultimo would have been noticed immediately after its receipt had not the principal subject treated in it been anticipated in that which I had already written to you.

You state that Detroit is an insecure position while the Enemy are in possession of Malden and the Country between Detroit and the frontiers of the State of Ohio a wilderness because there would be danger of their passing the Strait, and cutting off your supplies, if not your Retreat; that Detroit ought to be assailed through Malden, and that Malden cannot be approached and taken unless the Strait be frozen, so as to afford you a passage to it on the ice.

You intimate also that the ground on the Canada side of the Strait commands Detroit, in consequence of which the latter merely as a post could not be maintained against an Enemy with a suitable train of Artillery on the opposite Bank, which it is known the Enemy possesses.

The great difficulty is in the transportation of Ordnance and other supplies sufficient for the Enterprise; for I am persuaded that if you could take with you the force you mention, with the necessary supplies in Ordnance and provisions, so as not to be embarrassed on that account you might carry

everything before you. Secure as to supplies it might not be very material which post you attacked first, and whether you passed the Strait at Detroit or Malden. Superior in the field, and at liberty to take your own positions, the comparative height of different stations would be of little importance.

You think however that you cannot get forward at this season of the year with your supplies to Detroit and pass the Strait there in the hope of taking those Fortresses in that mode, leaving Malden in the first instance in your Rear. Your opinion on this point must be conclusive. The President wishes you to attempt nothing in vain or at least without the fairest prospect of success. The delay of a few months is an evil not to be compared with the failure of another expedition or with any serious discomfiture. It is obvious that the Command of Lake Erie would dissipate many difficulties which now weigh heavy on us. By the facility which it would afford to transportation and to all our operations, it would soon give us Malden, Detroit and all Upper Canada, and terminate the Indian War there. The importance of the command of Lake Erie is seen in its true light. The most active and vigorous exertions will be made to attain it. The Command of Ontario was acquired before the Lake was frozen. It is expected that the Measures which have been adopted will secure to us likewise that of Erie early in the Spring.

The President wishes it distinctly to be understood that he has no object in view to be accomplished by a measure which is to produce a transitory effect only. Whatever ground is gained must be held, and he is content to gain it slowly, provided it be made secure, rather than to put the important interests of the Country to hazard by a rash enterprise.

I have received your letter communicating the result of Lieut. Colonel [James B.] Campbell's Expedition, and am instructed to convey to you the approbation of the President of the gallant conduct of the Commander, and of the Officers under him and the Troops employed in it.

I shall be happy to receive your opinion on the several subjects suggested for consideration in my last not touched in the letter just received, particularly the force necessary to give effect to the operations of the next campaign, and whether any and what portion of that force may be raised from the several Corps now in the field under your Command.

I will transmit to you in my next a copy of two Acts, now depending in Congress, should they pass, with such comments on them, in their relation to the States immediately connected with our military operations against upper Canada, as they may invite. J. M.

WINCHESTER TO HARRISON

17 Jany, 1813

Har. Pa. 900, 901

Inclosed I send you a note delivered to me on the night of the 13th Inst. by two persons escaped from the River Raisin. [see Jan. 12 above] On the 14th one other person from that settlement arrived in Camp, and on last night two more. They all agree, in stating that the enemy is searching for, and taking all suspected persons whom they can lay hold of and confining them in Malden Prison.

Isaac Day, the writer of the enclosed note, [see Jan. 12, above] has been taken and sent to prison. I am also informed that the enemy is engaging all the sleighs he can procure, for the purpose carrying off the flour and grain. In this latter purpose, I have determined to disappoint him, or oblige him to pay a dear price for it; for which purpose, I have this morning detached Colonel [William] Lewis and [John] Allen with a command suitable to effect the object intended. I am informed that they will have to contend with two companies of Canadians and about two hundred Indians.

If we get possession, it is my intention to retain it; therefore a cooperating force from the right wing may be acceptable.

Nothing will reconcile an extention of the period of service of the volunteers, but progressive operations; indeed some have calculated on being discharged within their own state on, or before the expiration of their term of service. [Extract]

Signed, J. WINCHESTER
B. Genl. Com. L. W. N W. army

Genl. WM. H. HARRISON, *Comd. N. W. Army*

True Copy L. HUKILL, *Aide de camp*

Harrison to Meigs

Lower Sandusky Jan. 19 1813

From the Chillicothe *Supporter*

On Thursday last an express arrived in town bearing a letter from Gen. Harrison to gov. Meigs, dated Lower Sandusky, Jan 19, 1813. The general has required of the governor two additional regiments of militia to march immediately to the Rapids for the purpose of filling the ranks of those Ohio troops whose term of service expire during the next month.

We are informed than gen. Winchester arrived at the Rapids on the 10th inst. and soon after sent a detachment of about 300 men under the command of Cols. [William] Lewis and [John] Allen for the river Raisin, at which place the British intended to destroy all the property and had taken away a number of persons who were supposed to be friendly to the U. States and sent them to the prison in Malden. It was ascertained that the British and Indians intended to attack gen. Winchester's main body at the Rapids, and considerable anxiety was felt for the detachment under cols. Lewis and Allen, as they had not been heard from and were expected to have fell in with an enemy. The troops are all rapidly concentrating at the Rapids—one regiment left Sandusky on Monday last, and were to reach the Rapids the next morning by marching all night. another regiment left there early on Tuesday morning at which time gen. Harrison left there, determined to reach the Rapids on the same day. From these movements some important events may be shortly expected to take place.

Vincennes Sun

Winchester to Harrison

Camp Miami Rapids, 19th Jany. 1813

Har. Pa. 935, 936

Sir:

In my last, [Jan. 17 above] I informed you I had sent out a Detachment under the command of Lt. Col.William Lewis. I have the honor now to communicate the result. The Village at River Raisin is ours with all the public stores.

The action commenced yesterday at 3 o'clock in the evening near the village and continued until dark. The enemy was

driven at the point of the bayonet from his strongholds and pursued two miles, notwithstanding he was covered by his artillery. Twelve warriors were left on the field of battle. One Potawatimie made prisoner, who is now at this Camp. My express left the scene of action as soon as it closed, therefore has not a list of the killed and wounded, nor was the number known when he came away. The latter I fear is considerable, tho not a commissioned officer killed and only one wounded (Capt. [Pascal] Hickman) slightly in the ankle. The troops, to a man behaved in this action in a manner that would do credit to the oldest veterans.

A particular list of the killed and wounded shall be transmitted as soon as obtained and proper notice taken of those who distinguished themselves in this gallant action.

I have the honor to be with every consideration of respect and esteem Your Mo. Obt. Humb. Servt.

J. WINCHESTER *Brg. Gen Com. L. W. N. W. Army*

Genl. W. H. HARRISON, *Comd. N. W. Army*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

No 35

HEAD QUARTERS N. W. Army MIAMI RAPIDS,
20th Day January 1813

Har. Pa. 937-938

SIR:

Genl. Winchester arrived here on the 10th Inst. with a part of the army amounting to about thirteen hundred men, having received information from the River Raisen that a body of British troops and Indians were at that place and that they were upon the point of destroying the provisions of the citizens he dispatched on the 17th a Detachment under the command of Colo. [William] Lewis to attack them. Upon my way to this place last evening I received the letter from the General of which the inclosed is a copy [see Jan. 19 above] informing me of the complete success of the enterprize in the defeat of the enemy and taking the stores they had collected. the detachment under Colo. Lewis remain at the River Raisen and Genl. Winchester very properly marched yesterday with two hundred and fifty men to reinforce him and take the command, the force at present there amounts to about one thousand effective men and I am at this moment dispatching a fine

Battalion of Ohio Infantry (from the Connecticut reserve) with a small company of artillery and a field piece. It is absolutely necessary to maintain the position at the River Raisin and I am assembling the Troops as fast as possible for the purpose. I am happy in having it in my power to inform you that our affairs in every respect wear a flourishing aspect I fear nothing but that the enemy may overpower Genl. Winchester before I can send him a sufficient reinforcement. I have however the highest confidence in the General and the Troops.

Depend upon it that they will not easily be driven from their position. I directed a part of the heavy artillery to set out from U. Sandusky yesterday on sleds.

The express who came in from Colo. Lewis reports that about ten of our men were killed and two captains and about twenty non-commissioned officers and privates wounded.

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir yr. ob. Svt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble JAMES MONROE, Esq. *Asst. Secy. of War*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 36)

Head Qr. N. W. Army MIAMI RAPIDS, 20 Jany. 1813

Har. Pa. 870, 871

SIR:

The appointment of Col. [James] Morrison and Capt. [John H.] Piatt as Depty. Qr. M. Genl. to this army with equal authority, is calculated to produce the most unfortunate results to the public interest as well from the confusion which it must produce in the accounts of that Department as from the eternal clashing with regard to their duties in the field.

I wish you to be so obliging as to decide between them. There are some peculiar circumstances which render it impossible for me to have anything to do in the decision.

Genl. Courts Martial have been constantly ordered and acted upon by Genl. Winchester; upon what authority I know not. I have never heard that a Genl. Court Martial could be ordered by any but the commanding Genl. of an army nor do I believe it to be lawful. The President may authorize a Colo. in a separate department to order Court Martial but in the same army or Department that authority can be vested in one per-

son only without proving destructive to subordination. I must request you to decide upon this subject also.

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir Yr. Ob. Svt

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honb. JAMES MONROE, Esq., *Act. Secty. of War*

PAYNE TO SHELBY

MIAMI RAPIDS, Jan. 20, 1813

Vincennes *Sun*

NORTH WESTERN ARMY IMPORTANT!!

DEAR SIR:

Since my last, a detachment of about 650 men under the command of Lieutenant Col. Wm. Lewis, 5th regt. Kentucky volunteers, on the 18th inst obtained a glorious victory over a combination of British and savages of certainly 460 (probably much greater) at the river Raison—The enemy were driven two & a half miles, although they had the advantage of a three pounder and picketting. Our loss as far as is yet ascertained, is about ten killed, and 25 wounded. That of the enemy as usual in Indian fighting unknown—but 18 found dead on the field and one prisoner.

[John Payne]

HARRISON TO ————

HEAD QUARTERS N. W. Army, January 20, 1813

Scioto Gazette, Extra, January 23, 1813

MY DEAR SIR:

I have the pleasure to inform you that the detachment under Col. [William] Lewis, was completely successful in the attack upon the post of the enemy at the river Raisin—their force there consisted of some hundreds of Indians, and a company of militia, which were placed behind pickets, were attacked by our troops about 3 o'clock on the 18th instant.

The action continued until night. The Indians suffered considerable—their allies ran off with a piece of artillery in the commencement of the action. Our loss in about ten killed and 20 wounded—general Winchester marched yesterday with 250 men to take the command at the river Raisin. He will have about 1000 effectives and I am at this moment dispatch-

ing five companies more of Gen. [Simon] Perkin's brigade. My hands are so cold that I can hardly hold the pen, which must be my excuse for this scroll.

WM. H. HARRISON

Copied by Vincennes *Sun*

LEWIS TO WINCHESTER

CAMP at FRENCH TOWN, On the RIVER RAISIN
Jany. 20th 1813

Har. Pa. 903-908

Brigadier General WINCHESTER

SIR: In obedience to your order I proceeded on the March with the detachment under my command to Presquisle on the 17th Inst. where the reinforcement under the command of Lt. Col. [John] Allen arrived at 7 o'Clock p. m. On the 18th as I informed you it was my determination, to set out for the Camp of the enemy at this village. From an early start, together with the advantage of a passage on the ice of the Lake, and the rapid march we made we were enabled to meet them by three o'clock in the evening.

When we were within three miles of the enemy correct information was obtained that they were prepared to receive us. Having arranged the troops in the following order they were directed to prepare for action. The right wing composed of the companies, commanded by Captain [W.] McCracken, Subaltern Lieutenant Williamson and Ensign McClary. Captain [Richard] Bledsoe, Subalterns Ensign Morrison (acting as Lieutenant) and Ensign [Thomas] Chinn Captain Matson, subalterns, Ensign [William] Nash (acting as Lieutenant,) and Ensign Caldwell. The left wing composed of the companies commanded by Captain [John] Hamilton, Subalterns Lieutenant Moore and Ensign [James] Heron; Captain [Samuel L.] Williams, Subalterns Lieut. [John] Higgins, and Ensign [Joseph] Harrow, Captain [Joseph] Kelly, Subalterns Lieutenant [William] McGuire, and Ensign [John W.] Nash. The center composed of the companies commanded by Captains [Richard] Hightower (17 U. S. Regt) Subalterns Lt. Holder and Ensign [Wm. O.] Butler, Captain [Coalman] Collier, Subaltern Lt. Story and Ensign [William] Fleet, Captain [Uriah] Sebree Subalterns Lieut. [Byran] Rule and Ensign Bowles, Lieut. Col. Allen commanding the right wing. Major [Benjamin] Graves the left and Major [George] Madison

the Center, Captain [Bland W.] Ballard acting as Major was placed in the advance of the whole with two companies, one commanded by Captain [Pascal] Hickman, Subalterns Lieut. [John T.] Chinn, the other by Captain [Michael] Glaves, Subalterns Lt. Comstock, and also Captain [Henry] James with his spies. In this order we proceeded within a quarter of a mile of the enemy when they commenced a fire on us with a Howitzer from which no injury was received. The line of Battle was instantly formed, and the whole detachment ordered to move on in the direction of the enemy without delay. The river at this time being between us and the enemy's lines we succeeded well in crossing it tho the ice in many places was extremely slippery. Having crossed at this instant the long roll was beat; the signal for a general charge, when I ordered Major [Benjamin] Graves and Major [George] Madison to possess themselves of the houses and picketing about which the enemy had chiefly collected and where they had placed their cannon. This order was executed in a few minutes; and both their battalions advanced amidst an incessant shower of bullets, neither the picketing, nor the fencing over which they had to pass retarded their progress to success—the enemy were dislodged in that quarter. Meantime Col. Allen had fallen in with them at considerable distance to the right when after pursuing them to the woods (a distance of more than half a mile) they then made a stand with their Howitzer and small arms covered by a chain of inclosed lots and a group of houses. Having in their rear a thick bushy wood full of fallen timber, I directed Brigadier [brigade major James] Garrard (one of my aids) to instruct Major Graves and Madison to possess themselves of the wood, on the left, and to move up towards the main body of the enemy as fast as practicable, to divert their attention from Col. Allen. At the moment the fire commenced with these Battalions the right wing advanced. The enemy were soon driven from the fences and houses and our troops began to enter the woods after them. The fight now became close, and extremely hot on the right wing, the enemy concentrating the chief of their force of both kinds to form the line. They were still however kept moving in retreat, altho slowly our men being much exhausted. My orders to Major Graves and Madison were executed with dispatch and success which joined with the exertions of Col. Allen's line completely routed

the enemy. The distance they retreated before us was not less than two miles and every foot of the way under a continual charge. The battle lasted from three o'clock until dark. The detachment was then drawn off in good order and encamped at the place which the enemy had first occupied, being the best for a camp then near us. The gallant conduct of Lieut. Col. Allen during every charge of this warmly contested action, has raised for him no ordinary military merit. Majors Graves, and Madison deserve high praise, for their undeviating attention to orders and the energy and dispatch with which they executed them. Captain Ballard led the men with great skill and bravery. I take this opportunity of tendering my most hearty thanks to Brigade Major [James] Garrard, Capt. Smith and Adjutant [John] McCalla who acted as my aid de camp for the great support they gave me during the whole of the action. The company officers acted with great bravery. It would be an almost endless task to particularize all who have distinguished themselves, for as all had an opportunity so to do there were none but what accepted it. There was not a solitary instance of a retreat on our part. Both officers and soldiers supported the double character of Americans and Kentuckyans. I have not been enabled to ascertain the exact force of the enemy, but from the best information, there was between 80 and 100 British troops and about 400 Indians. Major Reynolds [British] was present and it is understood commanded the whole. The number of their killed and wounded is unknown, we having left the woods after dark, so that not only during the battle, but after night they had an opportunity of carrying off all, except those who were left on the field where the action first commenced, say about 15. But from the blood, the trails of bodies dragged off and the reports from the people who live near this place the slaughter must have been great. One Indian and two of the Canadian Militia were taken prisoners. So steady and composed were our men in this assault that while the Enemy were killed or drove from the houses not a woman or child was hurt. Our loss is killed 12 and 55 wounded. One has since died. Enclosed is a list of their names, [see above] also a list of public stores taken from the enemy.

I have the honor to be your most obedient servant.

WILL. LEWIS *Commandant of the detachment*

True Copy L. HUKILL *aid de camp*

Report of the Killed, wounded and missing in the action at Frenchtown on the River Raisen, on the 18th January 1813.

Right column commanded by Lieut. Col. John [Allen].

Capt. W. McCracken's Company 1st Rifle regt.

Names	Killed	What company's detail
Joshua Moore	1	Hickman's 1st Rifle Regt.
	Wounded	
John Nolan	1	" " " "
Capt. Matson's Company		" " " "
	Killed	
Sergt. Benson		Langhams
Jesse Humble		
Robert Harrison	3	
	Wounded	
Capt. Matson		Langhams
George Keith		"
Edward McConnell		"
Will Armstrong		"
Harrison Boothes		"
John Bridges		Matsons
Will Adams		"

Capt. Bledsoe's company 1st Rifle Regt.

	Killed	
Joseph Simpson	1	Simpson's Company
	Wounded	
Williamson Price		Bledsoe's 1st Rifle Regt.
Clement Estes		" " " "
Abraham Estes		" " " "
Dudley Hudson		" " " "
John Lock		Simpson's
Jesse Fisher		
William Elhuton	7	

Centre Column Commanded by Major George Madison

Capt. Hightower's Company 17th U. S. Regt.

	Wounded	
Jeremiah Walker	1	Edwards "

Capt. Collin's company 1st Regt. K. V. M.

	Killed	
Cyrus Short	1	West's Company K. V. M.
	Wounded	
Ensign Fleet		Collins company
Armstead Ward		Wests company
John Ward		" "
John Roach	4	" "

Capt. Sabree's company

	Wounded	
Roll Terrell		Sabree company
John Tour		" "
Thos. S. Crow		" "
Joseph Day	4	Morrison's Co.
	Killed	
John Vinsant	1	

Left Column, commanded by Major Benjamin Graves

Capt. Hamilton's company 5th Regt. K. V. M.

	Killed	
James Risly		Harts company
Luke Fielas	2	Hamiltons
	Wounded	
Charles Scarles		Harts company
Charles Bradford		" "
James Viel		" "
John Beckley		" "
Robert E. Kelly		" "
William Daviess		" "
Cl. Barker		Hamilton's
Alfred Cheiner		
Nathan Cheiner		
Willis Colbert	10	

Capt. William's	Wounded	
William Frame		Williams company
John W. Daniel		
Sgt. Darnel		
——— Ficklin		
William Simpson		
John Davenport		
Robert Rings	5	

Capt. Kelly's company

Wounded

Obediah Woodson		Price's company
George Barr		
Edmund Underwood		
Thos. Wood		Kelly's Company
James Peoples		
Sergt. Lyanor		Martin's Company
B. Morris	7	

Advance Guard commanded by Capt. Ballard
Capt. [Michael] Glaves 1st Regt. K. V. M.

Wounded

Albert Ammerson	1	Glave's company
Thos. Graves	2	Wirts "

Capt. Hickman's company 1st Rifle Regt.

Killed

Moses Morgan	1	Bledsoe's company

Wounded

Capt. Hickman		
Lieut. Cheiner		Watson's company
John A. Holton		
Irvenne Brown		
John Cox		
Saml Smith	6	

Recapitulation

Killed

1 Sergt.
11 Privates

Wounded

3 Captains
1 Lieutenant
1 Ensign
3 Sergts.
1 Corporal
46 Privates

55 Total 67

Signed

JOHN W. MCCALLA *5th Regt. Ky. V. N. & Acting adjutant to the detachment*

WINCHESTER TO HARRISON

FRENCH TOWN RIVER RAISON 21 Jany 1813

Har. Pa. 892, 893

SIR:

Your communication of yesterday by Cap. Hart I have just had the honor of receiving. I am not yet able to give you any certain information as to the quantity of provisions which can be collected from the citizens of this place. I have taken measures to ascertain the quantity which can be had and as soon as information can be recd. it shall be communicated to you. My present opinion is that it will not be considerable perhaps three or four hundred barrels of flour and some beef. I would rather that my force was increased to 1000 or 1200 effective men, sufficient to repel any force that could be brought against me.

The ground I am compelled to occupy is not very favorable for defence and wood not convenient but it is my only alternative unless I abandon the protection of the village. No pains or reasonable expense shall be spared to acquire the necessary information concerning the enemy.

A quarter master stationed at this place might render service by purchasing forage as well as procuring the means of transportation of supplies from the Rapids which could be done by sleds, put in requisition here, on good terms. Axes are much wanted as well as fixed ammunition, the one for defensive, the other for offensive operations.

I am with sentiments of high respect Your Obt. Servt.

J. WINCHESTER *B. Gen. Com. L. W. N. W. Army*

True Copy L. HUKILL *Aid de camp*

Genl. W. H. HARRISON *Comd. N. W. Army*

WINCHESTER TO HARRISON

FRENCH TOWN RIVER RAISIN 21 Jany. 1813

Har. Pa. 898

DEAR GEN.

In my last communication I had the pleasure of announcing to you, the honorable result of an action which took place in this village on the 18th Inst, between a detachment of our troops under the command of Col. [William] Lewis of the

5th Regt. of Ky. volunteers and combined force of British and Indians.

I have now the honor to transmit to you an official account of that action, together with a report of the killed and wounded I have to lament that their number is more considerable than I at first was informed of. There was taken in the public stores of the enemy thirty barrels of flour, two thousand pounds of beef, and twelve blankets; but no arms or ammunition. All accounts from Brownstown and Malden agree in stating that the enemy is preparing to retake this place, if he effects his purpose he will pay dear for it. A few pieces of artillery however would add to our strength and give confidence to our friends in this quarter.

I have the honor to be with considerations of respect

Your obt. servt.

J. WINCHESTER *B. Genl. Com. L. W. N. W. Army*

Genl. W. H. HARRISON, *Comd. N. W. Army*

True Copy L. HUKILL *Aid de Camp*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT January 21st, 1813

Har. Pa. 51

General WM. H. HARRISON

SIR:

My last of the 17th Instant acknowledging yours of the 3d and 4th, [see these letters above] contained such observations as grew out of your statement of the progress and prospects of your military operations.

The Strait at Malden being now frozen and the Roads much improved by the frost, as is presumed from the state of the winter here, may have afforded the favorable opportunity which you have sought for an attack on that place. It is hoped that the posture of affairs under your command, is such as to admit of it, and of successful operations also against Detroit. By this however you will not infer it to be the wish of the President that you should undertake any rash enterprize. He reposes entire confidence in your judgment and information with respect to the course most proper to be pursued, and which it is so much more difficult to decide on at this distance. The destruction of the British force on the Lake should be kept constantly in view.

I transmit to you a copy of a Law,[1] which passed yesterday, relative to which the Adjutant General will give you Instructions.

J. M.

ISAAC BAKER TO HARRISON

RET. OF PRISONERS KILLED AT RAISIN

January 22, 1813

Niles' Register V, 125

1. Pascal Hickman, captain; 2. James E. Blythe, private; 3. Charles Gerles, do. 4. Thomas S. Crow. do. 5. Daniel Darnell, do. 6. Thomas Ward, do. 7. William Butler, do. 8. Henry Downy, do. 9. John P. Sidney, do.

In addition to the above number I saw two others tomahawked at Sandy creek myself, and find that the prisoners now in the hospital in Sandwich saw, say fifteen or eighteen others, treated in the same manner. Two men tell me they saw one who had the appearance of having been burned to death. Those men who saw Henry Downy and William Butler killed, tell me that the Indians left them without scalping. [See Feb 25 below]

ISAAC L. BAKER, *Ensign 2d. U. S. infantry*

WINCHESTER TO SECRETARY OF WAR

MALDEN, Jan. 23, 1813

Niles' Register IV, 10

SIR—A detachment from the left wing of the North-Western army, under my command, at Frenchtown on the river Raisin, was attacked on the 22d inst. by a force greatly superior in number; aided by several pieces of artillery. The action commenced at the dawn of day; the piquet guards were driven in; and a heavy fire opened on the whole line, by which a part thereof was thrown into disorder; and being ordered to retire a small distance, in order to form on more advantageous ground, I found the enemy doubling our left flank with force and rapidity.

A destructive fire was sustained for some time; at length borne down by numbers, the few of us that remained with the

1. This was a supplementary act for the organization of the Army. *Annals 12 Cong. III, 1318.*

party that retired from the lines submitted. The remainder of our force, in number about four hundred continued to defend themselves with great gallantry, in an unequal contest against small arms and artillery, until I was brought in as a prisoner to that part of the field occuped by the enemy.

At this latter place, I understood that our troops were defending themselves in a state of desperation, and was informed by the commanding officer of the enemy, that he would afford them an opportunity of surrendering themselves prisoners of war; to which I acceded. I was the more ready to make the surrender from being assured, that unless done quickly, the buildings adjacent would be immediately set on fire, and that no responsibility would be taken for the conduct of the savages, who were then assembled in great numbers.

In this critical situation, being desirous to preserve the lives of a number of our brave fellows who still held out, I sent a flag to them and agreed with the commanding officer of the enemy, that they should be surrendered prisoners of war, on condition of being protected from the savages, allowed to retain their private property, and having their side arms returned to them.

It is impossible for me to ascertain with certainty the loss we have sustained in this action from the impracticability of knowing the number who have made their escape.

Thirty-five officers and about 487 non-commissioned officers and privates are prisoners of war. A list of the names of the officers is herewith enclosed to you. Our loss in killed is considerable.

However unfortunate may seem the affair of yesterday, I am flattered by a belief, that no material error is chargeable upon myself, and that still less censure is deserved by the troops I had the honor of commanding.

With the exception of that portion of our force which was thrown into disorder, no troops have ever behaved with more determined intrepidity.

I have the honor to be, with high respect, your obedient servant.

A list of officers taken at French-town, Jan. 22, 1813

James Winchester, brigadier-general; William Lewis, Lieutenant colonel; James Overton, jun. aid-de-camp; George Madison, major; James Garrard, Jun. brigade-inspector; John

M'Calla, adjutant; Pollard Keen, quarter-master; John Todd, surgeon.

Captains: Richard Hightower; John Hamilton; Bland W. Ballard; Samuel L. Williams; Coalman Cholier; Uriah Sabrie; Henry James; Richard Bledsoe; Joseph Kelly.

Lieutenants: Caleb Holder; Ashton Garrard; Byran Rule; William Moore; William M'Guire; John Higgins.

Ensigns: Lynden Comstock; James Mundy; W. O. Butler: James Herron; Thomas Chin; William Nash; Jos. Harrow; Jos. Mooring; John W. Nash; William Fleet; John Botts; Geo. Cardwell.

Total 35 prisoners at Malden.

The Indians have still a few prisoners in their possession, which I have reason to hope will be given up to colonel Proctor at Sandwich.

JAMES WINCHESTER, *Brig. Gen. U. S. Army*

Hon. Sec. of war

HARRISON TO MEIGS

Headquarters CARRYING RIVER Jan 24, 1813

Niles' Register III, 381

DEAR SIR:

The event of which I expressed so much apprehension in my letter to you, from Lower Sandusky, has happened. The detachment under col. [William] Lewis was reinforced by general Winchester with two hundred and fifty men. He attended it, and took the command at the river Raisin on the 20th, and on the 22d he was attacked at reveille, by a considerable British and Indian force with six pieces of artillery; the troops being surprised, and the ground unfavorable, had but little opportunity of forming to advantage. They were surrounded and broke in twenty or twenty-five minutes. A major and captain and about twenty five privates were all that effected their escape.

I had but three hundred and sixty men with me about three miles above the Rapids where the news first reached me. I immediately ordered them to prepare to march; and set out with my staff to overtake a detachment of three hundred men that had set out that morning for the river Raisin. I overtook them at the distance of six miles, but before the other troops (colonel Andrew's Ohio regiment) came up, it was as-

certained that the defeat was complete, and it was the unanimous opinion of generals [John] Payne, [Simon] Perkins, and the field officers, that we should return. A detachment to the amount of one hundred and seventy of the most active men, was sent forward with directions to proceed as far as possible to assist those who were fortunate enough to escape; there were however but few, the snow was so deep that the fugitives were entirely exhausted in running a few miles; those that did get off effected it by turning down to the lake and secreting themselves. I believe there were not more than forty or fifty that got a mile from the scene of action, and the greater part of them were overtaken.

Never were the affairs of any army in a more prosperous situation than ours before the unfortunate step of marching the detachment to the river Raisin; it was made not only without any authority from me, but in opposition to my views. Everything, in my power was done to prevent any disaster, and reinforcements were pushed on with as much rapidity as possible; major [W. W.] Cotgrave's battalion, the first in the army, was within fourteen miles of the scene of action, when he heard of the defeat, and three hundred regular troops were also on their way. I remained at the Rapids with one regiment only. In justice to general Winchester, I must observe, that I have understood that the measure (marching the detachment to the Raisin river) was forced upon him by his officers; but, whatever may have been the cause, and however great the calamity, both as it regards the nation and individuals, it is certainly not irreparable. By the unanimous advice of the general and field officers, I took this position yesterday, for the purpose of forcing a junction with the troops in the rear, and to cover the very valuable convoy of artillery and stores that are coming from Upper Sandusky. Unless the weather is very unfavorable, I shall be at the Rapids again in four or five days, and shall certainly give the enemy an opportunity of measuring their strength with us in another contest. For myself, I feel no doubt as to the result, and if I can judge of the disposition of the troops, from the manner in which they received an address from me yesterday, a desire of avenging their lost companions and retrieving their country's disgrace is the predominant passion that occupies their minds.

I know not what proportion the prisoners of general Winchester's late troops bear to the killed; some of the French who have come in, report the latter at five hundred and others at eight hundred. The detachment amounted to near one thousand.

I am, with much regard, dear sir, your humble servant,

WM. H. HARRISON

His excellency governor MEIGS

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 37)

Head Qr. PORTAGE RIVER 15 Miles from MIAMI RAPIDS
24th Jany. 1813

Har. Pa. 872-877

SIR:

It is with the deepest regret that I have to inform you Sir that the Detachment under General Winchester has been entirely destroyed by an Indian and British force on the morning of the 22nd. Inst. at the River Raisin. About 12 o'clock on that day I was informed at the Rapids by a messenger from an officer who was marching a Detachment to reinforce Genl. Winchester that the General had been attacked that morning and that the Frenchman who brought this intelligence supposed that our troops were retreating. I had then with me a Regiment of Ohio Militia about three hundred and fifty strong two detachments were on the way to join Genl. Winchester but had taken different roads. One of two hundred Ohio troops were marching on the edge of the Lake and the other three hundred strong were pursuing Hulls road. Leaving directions for the Regiment in camp to follow me I proceeded on and overtook the Detachment of Kentucky troops in about five miles. Additional information was now received that French Citizens were flying in considerable numbers in carioles upon the ice and about 3 o'clock some of the fugitives began to arrive. All agreed that the defeat was total and complete that the Troops were nearly all surrounded and cut off or taken by 7 o'clock that Genl. Winchester was seen retiring a few miles from the River Raisin along Hulls trace with a few men and two or three officers all of whom were entirely exhausted that they were pursued by Indians on horse back who were constantly thinning their numbers by firing

upon them and that our men were unable to resist as almost all of them had thrown away their arms. I could not hesitate as to the propriety of hurrying to their assistance, as long as there was a possibility of being able to afford any but I was much embarrassed in the choice of the road which it was proper to take. That upon the ice would afford the most easy and expeditious march and that route Major Cotgrove with the Battalion before mentioned had taken; on the contrary all the accounts agreed that Genl. Winchester had taken the land road. But in a short time from the fugitives who began to drop in I learnt that Genl. Winchester and the forty or fifty men who were with him were all cut off a few excepted who had broken off to the margin of the Lake and from those who were last from the scene of action I learnt that all resistance upon the part of the Troops that had remained there had ceased before 8 o'clock. The question then to be determined was whether it would be proper to advance to the scene of action or not. The force with me when joined by Col. [W. W.] Cotgroves Battalion would amount to nearly Nine Hundred men. This Battalion had made a forced march of twelve miles the morning of the action and had arrived within about 15 miles of the River Raisin when the Major received such certain information of the total defeat of the troops that he had thought proper to return and was then within a few miles of us. Genl. Payne, Genl. Perkins and all the Field Officers were consulted, and it was unanimously determined that as there could be no doubt of the total defeat of Genl. Winchester there was no motive that could authorize an immediate advance but that of attacking the enemy who were reported to be greatly superior in numbers and were certainly well provided with artillery; that after a forced march of Thirty-two miles (the distance from our then position) from the River Raisen the troops would be too much exhausted to encounter the enemy that Cotgroves Battalion from having already marched twenty-five miles that day would be unable to accompany us. It was therefore determined to return to camp with the troops. But large detachments of the more active and vigorous men were sent along the different routes to assist and bring in the fugitives. I had dispatched Col. Wills early in the evening in a cariole to procure intelligence. He progressed within twelve miles of the scene of action and re-

turned about 9 o'clock. A council of war was then called consisting of the General and field officers and two questions submitted to them viz. whether it was probable that the enemy would attack us in our then situation and if they did could we resist them with effect.

At this council Major McClanahan of the Kentucky Volunteers who escaped from the action assisted. He was of opinion that there were from sixteen hundred to two thousand British and Indians opposed to our Troops and that they had six pieces of artillery principally Howitzers. It was the unanimous opinion of the council that under all circumstances it would be proper to return a short distance on this road upon which the artillery and reinforcements were approaching for should we be able to maintain our camp by getting in our rear the enemy would defeat our Troops in detail and in spite of all the efforts we could make would take the all important convoy of artillery and stores coming from Upper Sandusky. The march to this place was accordingly made yesterday, where I shall wait for the artillery and a detachment under Genl. Leftwich. I hope in a few days again to be at the Rapids.

With respect to the disaster that has happened and the cause which has produced it it is proper that I should say that the movement which led to it was not only without my knowledge or consent but entirely at variance with the instructions that I had given to Genl. Winchester. As soon as I was informed that it had been made every effort in my power was used to increase their strength. Three hundred men more than the General had asked for were on their march to join him. As his situation enabled him to obtain the most correct information of the strength and position of the enemy I could not doubt of his having obtained it. In justice to Genl. Winchester however it is my duty to observe that I have understood that the detachment under Colo. Lewis was made at the earnest solicitations of his officers and perhaps contrary to his judgment. However deeply to be lamented Sir the destruction of the detachment under Genl. Winchester may be as a national calamity and as it regards the families of the valuable individuals who have fallen it has by no means destroyed my hopes of success with regard to the accomplishment of the principal object of the campaign—unless the

weather should be uncommonly unfavorable. I shall return to the Rapids in a few days with a force considerably superior to any that the enemy can collect in the upper district of Canada. I can discover no dispondance amongst the Troops that are with me, and I trust that something may yet be done to compensate for the hardships and difficulties which we every moment sustain.

The account given by Major McClanahan and Capt. Glaves of the action of the 22nd is that the enemy commenced just after Reveille to throw shells amongst our troops before the officers and men had risen from their beds. They were however formed but very inconveniently posted and being entirely surrounded they were broken in twenty minuits. The General endeavoured to rally them after they had passed the river but without effect. Forty or fifty with the General broke through in that direction but from the depth of the snow those on foot were soon exhausted and were in a short distance overtaken by the Indians. The General frequently attempted to form them to oppose the Indians but his efforts were ineffectual. I am unable to say what is the proportion of the killed and prisoners, some of the Frenchmen whom I have seen assert that five hundred were killed others eight. I am still however in hopes that the greater part are prisoners. I have seen one man who asserts that he saw Genl. Winchester killed scalped and his bowels taken out; such are the allies of a power which boasts its attainments in every art and science and such the war associates of British officers who claim distinction for their nice feelings and delicate sense of honor.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect Sir Yr. Hbl. Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble. JAMES MONROE Esq. *Acting Secy. of War*

But 2 officers and 25 or 30 privates reached my camp from the Battle of the River Raisin.

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

Head Qrs. PORTAGE RIVER 24th Jany. 1813

Har. Pa. 878

SIR:

In a conversation I had with Gov. Meiggs some time since

he mentioned his desire to enter into the Army as a Brigadier and I promised to communicate his wishes to you. His merits are I presume well known to the General Government. There never was a more ardent patriot. His talents are very respectable and he has devoted a considerable share of his attention to military pursuits.

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir

Yr. Hb. Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble. JAMES MONROE Esq. *Acting Secy. of War*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(38)

Head Quarters N. W. Army
PORTAGE RIVER 15 Miles from the MIAMI RAPIDS
26 Jany. 1813

Har. Pa. 879-885

SIR:

I have the honor to enclose herewith a duplicate of my letter of the 25th Inst. together with the official report of Col. Lewis to Genl. Winchester of the action of the 18th Inst. (No. 1) [see Jan. 20 above]

That you may be enabled to judge of the propriety of the steps which were taken by me previously to the unfortunate event at the River Raisin I proceed to give you an account of the situation of the troops and the arrangements I had made for their advance. The left wing of the army under the immediate orders of Genl. Winchester consisting of the 6th Regts. Kentucky troops a Battalion of Ohio Infantry and a Detachment of Regulars under Col. [Samuel] Wells. The importance of keeping a considerable force on this line After the advance of the Army from its vicinity to the Indian tribes of the Wabash and Lake Michigan induced me to direct Genl. Winchester to take with him 3 Ky. Regts. and the Regular Troops only with these, amounting to about thirteen hundred men, he marched from his camp 5 miles below the mouth of the AuGlaize River on the 31st ulto. on the evening before he dispatched an express informing me of his intention to march the next morning. This express was sent thro the woods to Genl. [Edward] Tuppers Camp 44 miles advanced of Urbanna upon Hull's road. A violent snow storm prevented

it from reaching Genl. Tupper untill 9th Inst. and it was not untill the 11th that it came to me at Upper Sandusky. I immediately gave orders for several droves of Hogs which had been stopped on their Route to proceed towards the Rapids and I directed the Artillery to be prepared to progress as soon as the General's arrival at the Rapids should be announced, which I directed him to do by an express to be sent immediately to U. Sandusky. Not hearing from the Gen. for some days I began to conclude that his progress had been stopped by a considerable thaw which took place about the 1st of the month. On the evening of the 16th inst. I received a letter from Genl. [Simon] Perkins enclosing one from Genl. Winchester to him of the 15th informing of his arrival at the Rapids on the 10th; that it was his intention to advance against the enemy and directing him (Genl. Perkins) to send a reinforcement to the Rapids of one Battalion. Allarmed at this information I dispatched an express with the enclosed Letter (No. 2) [see Jan. 16 above] by the direct route to the Rapids and set out myself to Lower Sandusky and reached it on the evening of the 17th. On the morning of the 18th the Battalion which Genl. Winchester applied for marched from Lower Sandusky. About 2'oclock on the morning of the 19th a Letter from Genl. Winchester was received of which the enclosed is an extract. (No. 3). [see Jan 17 above] I gave immediate orders for the 2nd Regt. of Perkins Brigade (which consists of two Regts. only) to march immediately for the Rapids and hastened thither myself. On my way I received the Genl's. letter of the 19th [see Jan. 21 above] informing me of the success of Col. Lewis a copy of which I had the honor to enclose you from the Rapids. Upon my arrival at the latter place on the morning of the 20th I found that Genl. Winchester had marched the preceding day having left Genl. Payne with about three hundred of the Kentucky troops. It was not untill late on the 21 inst. that Maj. [W. W.] Cotgreve was enabled to extricate his Baggage and the pieces of artillery he had in charge from the Horrid Swamp which separates the Miami and Sandusky Rivers. He encamped that evening near the Miami Bay and by marching early on the following morning he had arrived within fifteen miles of the River Raisin when he was informed of the total defeat of our Troops there.

The 2nd Regt. of Perkins Brigade arrived on the 21st and I immediately ordered the remaining part of the Kentucky troops under Genl. Payne to proceed with all possible expedition to the River Raisin. I was uneasy for the Troops there, but supposing that Genl. Winchester had obtained the best information of the strength of the disposable force of the enemy and as I had sent him three hundred men more than he deemed sufficient for maintaining his ground (See his letter of the 21st. No. 4). and as there were a thousand reasons which made it necessary to maintain it if practicable I did not think it proper to order him to retreat altho the advance in the first instance was contrary to my wishes and opposed to a principle by which I have been ever governed in Indian warfare i. e. never to make a detachment but under the most urgent circumstances. Amongst the many reasons why the Post at the River Raisen should be maintained, the Protection of the French Inhabitants was not the least. The greater part of these people had received our Troops with open arms many of them had sallied out of their houses upon the arrival of Colo. Lewis with their arms in their hands and had even in the opinion of some of our officers won the palm of valor from our troops. they attacked and killed the strugling Indians wherever they met them. Their Houses were all open to our men, they offered to give up the whole of the provisions which yet remained to them upon condition that they should not again be abandoned to the fury of the savages, or subjected for what they had done to be immured in the Prisons of Malden. I had also been informed, that the supplies to be procured there were considerable. (See Days's letter enclosed in No. 3). [Jan. 12, above] and the assistance to be derived, from the carioles of the inhabitants was an object of the greatest importance. The former of these motives had made so strong an impression upon the minds of the Genl. and his Troops, that I am persuaded, that nothing but a reiterated order to retreat would have produced obedience upon the part of the latter. These reasons together with the respect which it was necessary to show to the opinion of an officer of high rank and experience where opportunity of procuring the most correct information was much better than mine, produced the determination to support rather than withdraw the detachment from the River Raisin. Indeed it ap-

pears that there was not time for either, after my arrival at the Rapids. When I left Upper Sandusky the artillery was ordered to be sent on immediately to the Rapids escorted by three hundred men. Detachments were also ordered for the Pack Horses, Waggons and Sleds, which were constantly progressing thither. Another Battalion could also have been drawn from Lower Sandusky so that the troops at the Rapids would have been almost daily increased. On this day they would have amounted to twenty-five hundred with two pieces of artillery and in four or five days more the Virginia Brigade and Pennsylvania Regt. would have increased them to Thirty eight hundred, with a further supply of artillery. By the 5th of Feby. the whole force of four thousand five hundred, which I contemplated assembling at the Rapids would have been there; and provisions and munitions of war in abundance.

I should have been enabled to advance to the Rapids again this day or tomorrow but for a most unfortunate rain which has broken up the roads so as to render them impassable for the artillery altho it is fixed on sleds. The whole train is stopped twenty five miles from this. I have reasons to believe that the Miami river has broken up. I have the honor to enclose you a report [immediately following] made to me by Major McClanahan, the senior of the two officers, who escaped from the action of the River Raisin. It requires no comment from me.

I have the honor to be with great Respect Sir Yr. Obt. Svt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble. JAMES MONROE Esqe. *Acting Secty of War*

MCCLANAHAN TO HARRISON

Camp on CARRYING RIVER Jan. 26th 1813

Har. Pa. 886-889

Genl. WM. H. HARRISON SIR:

As the senior officer who escaped from the disaster which befell our troops under Genl. Winchester on the 22d Instant it becomes my duty to report to you so much of that affair as comes within my knowledge.

On the morning of the 19th Inst. I marched from the camp at the rapids of the Miami with the detachment under Col.

[Samuel] Wells consisting of about 300 men including officers, to reinforce Col. Lewis at the River Raisin. Shortly after we left Camp Genl. Winchester passed us in a carry all and as I understood reached the advanced troops that night. Our detachment arrived there about 3 o'clock P. M. on the 20th except Capt. Morris's company. It had been left as a rear guard with the baggage, and did not join us at all.

We found the detachment under Lt. Col. Lewis encamped in the gardens on the north side of the river Raisin at Frenchtown not in any regular order and apparently as they had settled down in the night after the battle of the 18th. The field officers were generally in houses. Genl. Winchester had taken up his quarters in the house of a Mr. Navarre about three quarters of a mile from the troops and on the opposite side of the river.

The land was cleared and entirely open except fencing and some buildings for near a mile on every side [Illeg.]

The detachment under Col. Wells encamped below and on the right of the other troops about one hundred yards from them, in ground entirely open; three companies in a line leading from the river the fourth at right angles to those three and leading down the river. These troops had about ten rounds of ammunition. They paraded and called their rolls as usual; the others did not.

On the morning of the 21st there was a talk of moving and encamping on better ground, and in regular order, the general and some of the field officers went out to view ground for that purpose but nothing was done.

Our spies were not sent out to my knowledge after I reached camp. I saw them on the 21st and understood that on that morning the general gave orders for their going out on the 22d.

The fixed ammunition which was sent from the rapids on the 21st was taken to Genl. Winchester's quarters at Mr. Navarre's on that morning. It remained there and was not distributed.

On the evening of the 21st Col. Wells returned on some business to the camp at the Rapids and left the detachment under us to my command. He advised that the officers and men should remain at their posts as there was a probability of an attack.

That evening a rumour reached us that the enemy were coming against us with 3 or 4000 men; and would be with us before day. I expected that the field officers would have been called together and a consultation held and instructions given to meet the event should it happen. It was not done. I directed the officers under my command to form in case of an attack so as to close the vacancy between us and the other troops.

At daybreak on the next morning and during the beating of Reveille two of our centinels fired alarm guns and immediately the enemy commenced a heavy cannonade from six or eight pieces, with bomb shells and canister shot, followed up by small arms. The troops under my command and apparently throughout the line were soon formed, and returned the fire very briskly. The enemy consisted of British forces in the center as extensive and apparently in closer order than we were; and Indians on both flanks extending quite to our rear.

The action was warmly contested for near half on hour, at which time the Indians had under cover of some fencing and a barn, approached so near as to galled us severely in the flanks, whilst the British kept up an incessant fire in front. Our troops then began to give way. They retreated to the river. I then for the first time during the action saw Genl. Winchester. He directed in a voice not loud to form under the north bank of the river. Lt. Col. Lewis and Allen were present and assisted in rallying and forming the men. A considerable number took their position and some of them renewed the fire but it was not long kept as the Indians were still on our flanks and fast gaining our rear.

A second attempt was made to form the troops about sixty yards on this side of the river along some fences but not many of them formed. A third effort was made in some woods after crossing a branch about a mile and a half from the place of action. Col. Lewis was the only other field officer I saw there. We used our endeavours to rally the men, but they could not then be stoped. The pursuit was then very hot. After continuing with the men about half a mile further and finding nothing more could be done I took Capt. Glaves, who was wounded behind me and my son by the hand and left the road and reached camp with them.

Genl. Winchester and Lt. Col. Lewis were riding slowly at the head of the retreat when I saw them last; they could to all appearance easily have left the footmen and made their escape had they intended leaving the men.

I have been informed from sources I cannot doubt that frequent enquiries were made for ammunition during the action. The men appeared ardent and obedient to orders whilst it lasted.

GLAVES TO HARRISON

Camp on CARRYING RIVER Jany. 26th. 1813

Har. Pa. 891

Genl. WM. H. HARRISON

SIR:

I have had an opportunity of seeing the report of Maj. McClanahan of the affair of the 22d inst. at the river Raisin. I concur with him in all the material parts of his statement.

I have the honor to be your most obt.

MICHAEL GLAVES, *Capt.* 1 *Regt. Inf. K. V. M.*

HARRISON TO SHELBY

About Jany. 1813

Dawson, *Harrison, 375*

My sentiments upon the subject of the force necessary for the prosecution of the war, are precisely similar to yours. It will increase your surprise and regret, when I inform you that last night's mail brought me a letter from the secretary of war, in which I am restricted to the employment of the regular troops raised in this state to reinforce the post at the rapids. There are scattered through this state, about 140 recruits of the 19th regiment, and with these I am to supply the place of the two brigades from Pennsylvania and Virginia, whose term of service will now be daily expiring. By a letter from governor Meigs, I am informed, that the secretary of war disapproved the call for militia, which I had made on this state and Kentucky, and was on the point of countermanding the orders. I will just mention one fact, which will show the consequences of such a countermand. There are upon the Auglaize and St. Marys rivers, eight forts which contain within their walls property to the amount of half a million

of dollars from actual cost, and worth now to the United States four times that sum. The whole force which would have had charge of all these forts and property, would have amounted to less than 20 invalid soldiers. [see letters immediately below]

TO THE MILITIA OF KENTUCKY IN THE N. W. ARMY

FELLOW-CITIZENS AND SOLDIERS IN ARMS

Jan. 29, 1813

Niles' Register III, 389

When the first sound of war was heard, at the call of your country, you crowded voluntarily to the standard, and asked to be enrolled in defence of her rights—gain was not your object—you gloried in the precious inheritance so nobly won by the revolution—your bosoms glowed with the ardor of freemen—you were not goaded on by a tyrant hand to fight the battles of ambition or dominion; but the spirit of your fathers aroused you from the slumber of indolence, to undertake the turmoils, and surmount the labor and hardships of camps, to shew our ancient enemy that you knew how to value and maintain the independence we held as the gift of heaven only, to wipe off the foul stain which had been cast upon the American name, by the base surrender of one of our armies—to avenge the shades of our slaughtered brethren, of helpless women and infants—to drive back that audacious enemy and her savage allies, who had profaned our soil with her hostile and triumphant steps—to make them feel the evils of the war at their own doors, in a word, to plant the standard which bears your country's eagle, on the walls of Malden. These were your objects when you grasped your arms, and demanded battle. Your progress has been retarded by obstacles not under your control, or that of your general. You have with heroic fortitude, borne cold, hunger and fatigue. Your state has sympathised with you, and your brave associates in suffering. Your fellow-citizens and fair countrywomen have endeavored as far as in their power by voluntary contributions to assist in shielding you from the inclemency of an inhospitable climate, knowing that whenever the enemy has been tangible, you have made him not only respect, but feel you. You have shewn that you are Kentuckians, firm and invincible—success has dawned upon you—the object you sought in taking the field is just in

sight; your anxiety to return to the embrace of your friends and families are felt and appreciated. But would not the joy of your return be damped, when the reflection should arise, that you had surmounted the greatest difficulties in your way —your general was just about accomplishing the important object of the campaign—Malden was in view—victory beckoned you to follow on, and you retired; when two months had been wasted, and your fellow soldiers were left surrounded by dangers?

Your state or your country cannot demand of you to remain a few months longer, as an act she has any legal right to claim of you; but your state asks it, as what would redound to the honor of you, her sons, and her own character. Every reasonable means will be resorted to in order to supply your places at the earliest possible period. In the mean time, your state, from her sense of the merits of such of you as will remain at your posts, after the expiration of your term of service, have authorised seven dollars per month to be given out of her treasury, to each non-commissioned officer, musician and private, to the number of fifteen hundred, in addition to their regular pay from the general government during such additional time of service.

FELLOW-CITIZENS AND SOLDIERS

Such another opportunity may never again occur to crown yourselves with honor. The eyes of your state, your country, are on you. Act worthy yourselves and all will be well.

Resolved, That the governor of this state, be requested to cause so many copies of the foregoing address, to be printed and transmitted to general Harrison, and such other officers commanding the militia of this state, as he may deem right, in order to be communicated to said troops.

JOSEPH H. HAWKINS,
Speaker of the House of Representatives
R. HICKMAN
Speaker of the Senate

ENCOURAGEMENT OF VOLUNTEERS IN KENTUCKY

FRANKFORT Jan. 29, 1813

Niles' Register III, 389

An Act making and additional compensation to the detach-

ment of volunteers from this state, in the service of the United States in the event therein specified.

Whereas, from information officially communicated to the legislature, it is deemed important to the success of the present campaign of the northwestern army, under the command of general William H. Harrison, that part of the militia of this state now in that army, should continue in service for a longer time than that for which they are at present engaged. Therefore,

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the general assembly of the commonwealth of Kentucky, That each non-commissioned office, musician and private, belonging to the said detachment not exceeding fifteen hundred men, to be received or selected and organized and enrolled by the commander in chief, who shall remain in the said army, under the command of their respective officers, or such officer who may take the command thereof, with the approbation of the commander in chief, after the expiration of the time of service for which they were ordered out under the authority of the president of the United States, or shall have been killed, or died in the same, shall be entitled to receive, upon the application of such person, if living, or his legal representatives in case of death, a warrant for a sum equal to seven dollars per month, not exceeding three months, that such non-commissioned officer, musician or private shall have remained in such service, and have been legally discharged therefrom, after the expiration of the term for which they were so called out, in addition to the pay now allowed by the laws of the United States.

Sec. 2 And be it further enacted, That the auditor of public accounts shall, upon the producing to him the pay rolls from the officers commanding companies in the detachment, certified in the manner prescribed by the acts of congress, issue his warrant upon the treasury for the amount of the sum thereupon appearing due, to each of the non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates or his or their representatives, agreeably to the provisions of this act.

J. H. HAWKINS
Speaker of the house of representatives

R. HICKMAN,
Speaker of the Senate

Approved Jan. 29, 1913
ISAAC SHELBY, *Gov. of Ken.*

SHELBY TO HARRISON

Jany. 30th, 1813

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book A" 39

DEAR SIR:

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 19th inst., and to inform you that the same was submitted to the Legislature of this State (who were then and still are in session) for their consideration, and who have in consequence thereof passed an Act allowing additional compensation to such of the Kentucky militia not exceeding fifteen hundred who may consent to continue in service not more than three months after their present Term of Service expires. [see Jan. 26 above] The General Assembly have also passed a resolution addressed to the militia of Kentucky now under your command appealing to their patriotism and love of country, on this very interesting occasion, both of which I am instructed to forward to you without delay, that you may avail yourself of such means as they may afford to aid you in instructing that number of militia from this state to remain in service for a greater length of time after their present engagements expire. [see Jan 26 above]

The General Assembly have been induced to adopt this course under the impression that it would be morally impossible at this inclement season to collect and march from this state the force which you require in time to relieve those now on duty. It may be important if possible to advise me by return of the Express, what success these two measures have had in inducing the militia of this State to agree to remain with you after the expiration of their Term of Service. And what aid you will still need from this state, in order that my earliest exertions may be directed toward raising the men and sending them on in case you should need such aid, an address from you to our militia stating as far as proper your situation and the urgency of the occasion inclosed to me to be published, might have a considerable effect. Col. Anth. Crockett, who is the bearer of this dispatch is also charged with sundry copies of the law and resolution above stated for the purpose of your distributing them generally amongst the Kentucky militia, to afford them a clear understanding of the views and wishes of

the General Assembly. Col. Crockett is directed to wait until such time as you may find it convenient to dispatch him back.

I am, &c.,

ISAAC SHELBY

To Gen. WM. H. HARRISON

HARRISON TO MCKEEHAN

HEAD QUARTERS 31st Jany, 1813

Mich. Hist. and Pion. Pa. XV, 235

SIR:

You will proceed with the two men who are to attend you, to the River Raisin, bearing a flag of Truce. The object of your Trip, is to ascertain the situation of the wounded which were left as it is said at that place. If a British officer should be there, you will deliver him the letter with which you are charged, and proceed to give such assistance to the sick, as they may need and you be able to procure. You are furnished with one hundred Dollars in Gold, for the purpose. Should there be no British Officer on the River Raisin, you will proceed towards Malden, until you meet with one, unless there should be great danger from the Indians. Indeed it is my wish that you should go onto Malden, if you are permitted to do so, to bring Dispatches from General Winchester, or the Senior officer remaining with our prisoners.

If your professional services are wanted with the wounded you will remain with them, and send back the two men to bring me an account of your proceedings.

I am Respectfully

Your Obedt. Servant

WM. HENRY HARRISON

To Dr. SAMUEL MCKEEHAN

GIBSON TO INDIANA ASSEMBLY

February 2, 1813

Mss. in Secretary of State's Office

Western Sun, February 6, 1813

Dillon, *History of Indiana, 517*

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives

THE governor of the territory having been for some time absent from us, the gubernatorial functions consequently de-

volving upon, have been exercised by me. In my discharge of this important trust, I have been actuated by none other than a wish to preserve public rights and protect private property. If I have at any time failed in my official duties, or erred in my plans, you must attribute it to the head and not the heart.

My address to you, gentlemen, shall be laconic, for I am not an orator nor accustomed to set speeches; and did I possess the abilities of Cicero or Demosthenes, I could not portray in more glowing colours our foreign and domestic political situation than it is already experienced within our own breasts. The United States have been latterly compelled by frequent acts of injustice, to declare war against England; I say compelled; for I am convinced from the pacific and agricultural disposition of her citizens, that it must be a case of the last necessity that would induce such a measure. For the detailed causes of the war, I beg leave to refer you, gentlemen to the message of his excellency the president, to congress, at the commencement of its present session; it is highly worthy the serious perusal of the sage and the patriot. It does honor to the head and the heart of mr. Madison.

Although I am not an admirer of wars in the general, yet, as we are now engaged in a necessary and justifiable one, I can exultingly say that I am happy to see in my advanced days our little but inimitable Navy, riding triumphant on the seas, but chagrined to find that our armies by land are so little successful. The spirit of '76 appears to have fled from our continent, or if not fled, it is at least asleep, for it appears not to pervade our armies generally. On the contrary lassitude, and too often schisms have crept in, and usurped the place of patriotic ardour.

At your last assemblage, gentlemen, our political horizon seemed clear; our infant territory bid fair for rapid and rising grandeur; our population was highly flattering; our citizens were becoming prosperous and happy, and security dwelt everywhere, even on our frontiers. But alas! the scene has changed and whether this change as it respects our territory, has been owing to an over anxiety in us to extend our dominions, or to a wish for retaliation by our foes or to a foreign influence, I shall not pretend to decide. But that there is a change, and that too, a distressing one, is evident. For the

aborigines, our former neighbors and friends, have become our most inveterate foes. They have drawn the scalping knife and raised the tomhawk, and shouts of savage fury are heard at our thresholds. Our former frontiers are now wilds, and our inner settlements have become frontiers. Some of our best citizens, and old men worn down with age, and helpless women and innocent babes, have fallen victims to savage cruelty. Our citizens, even in our towns, have frequent alarms, and constant apprehensions as to their preservation.

I have not been inattentive to my duty, gentlemen, but have hitherto, and shall continue to exert every nerve to afford to our citizens all possible protection. And it is to be hoped that the allwise and powerful creator and governor of the universe, will not forget his people, but cover us from our savage and sanguinary foe by his benign interposition.

For the state of our fiscal affairs, I refer you, gentlemen, to the reports which are required by law and which no doubt will be made to you early in the session, by the auditor and treasurer. What amount has been drawn from the contingent fund by governor Harrison previous to his departure from the territory, I know not, gentlemen, but that fund remains untouched by me. Our present militia law is complained of as being still very defective. Our present Adjutant General, who is pretty much the disciplinarian, and I believe tolerable acquainted with military tactics, will no doubt, if called upon, detail to you some of its most prominent defects, and suggest the proper remedies. To me it seems that the principal defect is owing to the execution, not the law. It is an old, and I believe a correct adage, that ('good officers make good soldiers.') This evil having taken root, I do not know how it can be eradicated; but it may be remedied. In place of men searching after and accepting of commissions before they are even tolerably qualified, thereby subjecting themselves to ridicule, and their country to ruin, barely for the name of the thing, I think it may be remedied by a previous examination. This, however, amongst other important territorial concerns, rests with the legislature.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives:

As the immediate guardians of the public purse, I would recommend a reconsideration of the revenue laws. Enquire whether the authority given to the several officers concerned

in the levying and collecting the tax is ample and complete as it should be to meet the exigencies, and give energy and respect to our government; for our public credit is yet at a low ebb. I also recommend an enquiry into the salaries of our territorial officers—whether are the salaries an adequate compensation for the duties performed? for the good old maxim is 'Good work good pay,' and liberal salaries are the only sure means of securing good officers; consequently a faithful discharge of duties.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council

With you rests the important task of guarding in a more special manner the rights and liberties of your fellow citizens, and I have no doubt that in the discharge of your important duties you will be governed by moderation, and a due regard to the trust reposed in you.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council and House of Representatives

In your deliberations I recommend a conciliatory disposition towards each other, and as to myself suffer me to assure you, that you shall have my cordial co-operation, in any measure that may tend to the public good.

Should anything of moment and public concern transpire, gentlemen, you shall be duly informed thereof, from time to time.

JOHN GIBSON.

GIBSON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

VINCENNES, Feb. 3, 1813

Har. Pa. 252-254

SIR:

The exposed situation of our country has induced me to authorise the Adjutant General of the Territory to raise by Volunteer Offer three complete companies of Mounted Men for two months, who I intend shall range and patrole through the frontiers. But in case he may not be enabled to effect the raising of the three companies of mounted men, I shall then have organized that number of Infantry. I have pledged myself that they shall be paid as Infantry at the expiration of the two months or sooner if sooner discharged. Should the Companies be organized of Mounted Men, they will furnish their own horses and forage themselves, in which case, I rec-

ommend their receiving an adequate allowance or compensation. And should the plan of Rangers for the protection of our Frontiers be still adhered to by Government, suffer me to suggest to you the propriety of having officers over them who are well acquainted with our local Geography.

It appears that the officers who served in Governor Harrison's campaign of 1811 up the Wabash, owing to their not having forwarded their subsistence and forage accounts are likely not to draw any thing for those items, Inasmuch as Cap. [Ambrose] Whitlock the Dep. Pay Master says He's not authorized by the Pay Master General to pay them.

By request of Gen. W. Johnston Esq. of this place (now my aid) I herewith transmit you his accot. as Quarter Master in Major [Jo] Daviess' squadron of Horse and earnestly request of you, that you will be so obliging as to have the proper steps taken in order that he may receive the amount. Mr. Johnston is not the only officer in this situation. I have been spoken to by Col. [Luke] Decker and others, to forward on their's but the present is the only one that has yet been handed to me.

By the request of Luke Decker late Colonel of the 1st Reg. of Inda. Militia and a residenter in this country since the year 1785 I have the honor of herewith transmitting you a Memorial to his Excellency the President of the United States, in favor of Gen. W. Johnston for the appointment of Major. Mr. Johnston has lived upwards of fifteen years in the country—is about thirty-five years of age, and is active and enterprising and possessed of a good general knowledge. It would please me to see that such men were encouraged by our country and permit me Sir, to recommend to yourself and through you to His Excellency, the President, Maj. Davis Floyd of this Territory, as a Patriot and soldier. He has since his unfortunate connection with A. Burr proven to his country upon several occasions his attachment and fidelity to her and I've no doubt was an opportunity afforded him, he would by his patriotic ardour wipe off every stain from his character. He is well qualified for a Military Command. I therefore take the liberty of soliciting that he may be appointed a Major or at the least a Captain in the Regular Service.

I have the honor to be Dear Sir with High
Consideration Your Obedient and very Humble Servt
JOHN GIBSON

The Hon'ble. The Secretary of War

TERRITORIAL COUNCIL TO GIBSON

February 5, 1813

Har. Pa. 265, 266

JOHN GIBSON, *Acting Governor of the Indiana Territory*

SIR:

In answer to your communication to both Houses of the Legislature, the legislative council sympathises with you on the unhappy state of war which the United States have been forced into, in defence of our national and individual rights, and particularly the savage warfare, which the Territory has been forced into from irratable causes for some years past.

The ruin and misery which individual families suffer on our frontier, indeed even in the interior of our infant settlement, and some times, that too, by those persons whom our Government have called into service for the protection of our frontier.

The ruin inflicted by our means of protection, we are convinced arises from the want of individual morality and particularly from the want of a salutary discipline among the Troops. To avoid the same evils taking place on the part of the Militia of the territory, to render them as efficient as possible, at the same time to have a due regard to the rights of the militia man, we agreeable to your advice, shall attempt to make such salutary amendments of our Militia Law, as to produce the desired effect, for we are fully convinced, that in a state of War the energies of the Government ought to be applyed with a strong and a steady hand. The other subjects to which you have recommended our consideration, shall be duly attended to. Please to accept the good wishes of the Legislative Council for your individual Welfare, hoping that by your continued and increased exertions for the protection of our Country, the unwary setler on our frontier may in some measure pass the light of day and the gloom of night, without the continued terrors of savage cruelty.

JAS. BEGGS, *President of the Leg. Council*

House of Representatives to Gibson

February 5, 1813

Har. Pa. 269

To His Excellency John Gibson, *Governor of the Indiana Territory*

Sir:

We have heard with pleasure the communication you have been pleased to make to the Legislative Council and House of Representatives at the opening of the present session. And remark that your patriotism has long drawn down the attention of the only Nation upon the Earth enjoying the liberal Excercise of rational liberty. We are happy in congratulating you, that nothwithstanding the many years that the critical eye of envy has had an opportunity of observing you in the discharge of your duties of a National concern and important trusts confided in you by your Nation, that yet, for the most cogent reasons, National patronage is extended to you in the Evening of your life. Your communication Sir, whilst it evinces strong intelecutal endowments, convinces us that you have marked the defects of our Legislative provisions. We regret sir, with you that our country has been forced to appeal to arms in vindication of our National rights. The consequences of which, probably are equally fatal to this section of the Union as any other, and which without energetic measures will soon be in a state of confusion. But we rejoice Sir, that there are reasons for believing that ample provision will be made for our defence and that our Citizens are willing to submit to all those privations and difficulties attending a country under the pressure of an Indian Warfare, and that our Government will not stop short of the establishment of those principles of right of which we have too long suffered the violation.

We have, Sir, witnessed the defect of our Militia system and to co-operate with you in rendering the Militia more efficient, will be one of the first objects of our attention. We also regret the defects that exist in our Revenue Laws, and as far as is expedient will endeavor to remedy those defects. We believe Sir, that your communication on those points is the result of judicious deliberation, and it is our intention to treat with proper regard every suggestion that your Excellency through your ardent desire to promote the public weal, has

been prompted to make, And Sir, when through you, we express the highest approbation of the Constituted authorities of our country we choose a medium meritting the respect that the Representatives of an Independent people intend to confer.

Please to accept Sir, our warmest wishes for your welfare.

House of Representatives

JAMES SCOTT, *Speaker of the House of Representatives*

SHELBY TO HARRISON

Feby. 9, 1813

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book A", 41

MY DEAR GENERAL:

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 22nd ult., informing of the action fought at French Town the 18th ult., and also that of the 25th by Col. Wells who arrived at this place on the evening of the 2nd inst., with the distressing intelligence of the defeat of Genl. Winchester's detachment at the same place. This melancholy event has filled the state with mourning, and every feeling heart bleeds with anguish. The Legislature of this state was on the point of rising at the moment when Col. Wells arrived but continued their session during the whole of the 3rd inst., in consequence of the intelligence contained in your dispatches by him and passed an act, authorizing the organization of three thousand militia for any term not exceeding six months and for any service of the United States, (which exigencies) of the present war, may in the opinion of the Executive require. I inclose you a copy of the act for your information. Altho I am not able to judge at this moment, what portion of this number may be deemed necessary to call into service I shall proceed to organize and detach the whole for any emergency that may require them.

The General Assembly by their joint resolution has authorized and requested me to command this force, which I have consented to do should the whole be ordered at once into service.

With &c., &c.,

ISAAC SHELBY

To Gen. WM. H. HARRISON,

GIBSON TO INDIANA ASSEMBLY

VINCENNES February 9, 1813

Mss. in Secretary of State's Office
Western Sun, March 6, 1813

Gentlemen of the Legislature

However painful and much to be lamented transaction, I conceive it a duty I owe you to communicate thus promptly, a letter I have just received from Maj. Wm. Prince, informing me of the loss of a detachment of our northwestern army.

To secure peace, gentlemen, we should at all times be prepared for war. And altho' our territory is but thinly populated, yet what men we have able to bear arms, are at my command: and entertaining no doubt, that upon your recommendation, as their immediate representatives, they will turn out with alacrity to serve their country, wherefore, I request that you advise me immediately, what number of our militia should be ordered into service, and where they should be placed, the better to protect our extensive and exposed frontier.

JN. GIBSON.

WILSON TO GIBSON

February 9, 1813

Har. Pa. 259

To His Excellency General JOHN GIBSON
Acting Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Indiana Territory

The Legislature have taken into consideration the written communication made to them this morning, on the alarming and defenceless situation of our Frontiers, together with enclosures from Major [William] Prince and think with you, that to secure peace we ought to be prepared for War. They therefore beg leave to suggest the adoption of the following plan immediately, as in their opinion best calculated to render security to our defenceless Frontiers, taking into view the paucity of our numbers, to wit from the County of Wayne two Companies, from the County of Franklin two Companies, from the County of Dearborn two Companies, from the County of Jefferson two Companies, from the County of Clark two Companies, from the County of Harrison two Companies and from the County of Knox four Companies. All of which Companies to be full and complete and to be drafted and organized agree-

able to the provisions of our Militia Law. With this force a chain of small Forts or Garrisons could be erected, having a constant communication with each other, throughout the territory, and in our opinion secure the inhabitants from all small parties of Marauders, who may be likely to infest the frontier. We would also beg leave to suggest that untill the Forts are completed, the force of each County should be under the controle of its immediate commanding officer and that when those are completed as the command will justify the organization of proper Field Officers, such should be selected, under the command of whom if active and intelligent, such arrangements can be made as are above suggested, with regard to ranging or patroling. The Orders given to those Field Officers ought to be particularly rigid and strict, obliging him or them to visit frequently the whole chain of Forts, and pay particular attention that the subordinate officers and men were puncutal in performance of their duty. Those arrangements will necessarily suggest the propriety of instructing the Contractor to be prepared to furnish the proper Provisions at the different Posts and also that provision be made for some mode of supplying the necessary equipment, arms and Amunition.

It may not be improper here to observe that should the plan above suggested be carried into execution, it will be well to instruct the Commandants of the different Counties, that in the erection of their Forts, they should have due regard not only to the safety of their own Counties, but the facility of communication which is to be kept up with the adjoining Counties.

All which is respectfully Submitted.

WALTER WILSON, *Chairman Committee*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT February 11th, 1813

Har. Pa. 52

General WM. H. HARRISON. SIR:

Your letters of January 20th and 24th [see above] have been received. When the service requires Colonel [James] Morrison and Captain [John H.] Piatt Deputy Qr. Master Generals on duty together, Col. Morrison being the Senior officer will command.

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 39)

HEADQUARTERS FORT OF THE MIAMI RAPIDS

11th Feby. 1813

Har. Pa. 915-925

SIR:

Having been joined by Genl. Leftwitch with his Brigade and a Regiment of the Pennsylvania quota at Portage River on the 30th Inst. I marched from thence on the 1st Inst and reached this place on the morning of the 2nd with an effective force of about seventeen hundred men. I have been since joined by a Kentucky Regiment and Genl. [Edward] Tupper's Ohio Brigade which has increased our numbers to two thousand non-commissioned officers and privates. Your letter of the 17th ulto. [see above] was received before I left the Camp at Portage River and altho the injunctions contained in it were such as to produce many doubts of the propriety of pushing on the arrangements calculated for the accomplishment of the principal objects of the campaign during the present winter, yet there were other considerations which produced a preponderance in my mind in favor of prosecuting them with vigor as long as a hope remained of their being successful. I accordingly ordered the whole of the Troops of the left wing excepting one company for each of the six Forts in that Quarter, the Balance of the Pensylvania Brigade and the Ohio Brigade under Genl. Tupper and a detachment of Regulars Troops and twelve month volunteers under the Command of Lt. Col. [John B.] Campbell to march to this place as soon as possible believing that I should be able to advance from hence by this day or tomorrow and if it were not in my power to take on heavy artillery for the siege of Malden, I should be enabled to scour the whole country disperse the Indians, destroy all the shipping of the enemy and the greater part of their provisions and secure a position at or near Browns Town untill a further supply of Cannon and stores could be brought up. Such was my plan when I marched from Portage River on the 1st Inst. and my situation was such as to authorize the strongest hopes of success, altho the agregate amount of all the effectual men in all the corps above mentioned was only about 3,300 a number that will greatly surprise you to be furnished by so many nominal Brigades and

the period of service of the Kentucky and Ohio Troops was fast approaching, that for some of them expiring about the middle of the month and of all before the last of it. I had established with them the principle that I had the right to march them to any point before the day which would complete their six months tour and I knew them too well to believe that they would abandon me in the country of the enemy. Provisions and ammunition were also on the road from the two Sanduskys and McArthurs Block House in considerable quantities and measures taken to supply the means of transportation for the advance from this place. These fair prospects have been entirely destroyed by circumstances which no human being could controle. The present is precisely the season in common years when the most intense frosts prevail in this country giving the most perfect security and facility in passing the lakes and swamps with which it abounds. For the last twelve or fifteen days however it has been so warm that the roads have become entirely broken up and for a considerable distance in our rear are absolutely impassable for waggons or sleds and can with great difficulty be traversed with single Horses. A number of waggons and sleds loaded with ammunition and other munitions of war have been eighteen days coming from Upper Sandusky and are Twenty five miles off—for eight days they were stopped by an uncommon fresh in the Tymocta and have been ten more getting twenty-five miles. The weather has even effected the ice of the Lake. On the evening before last I went with a detachment in pursuit of a body of Indians who were driving off the cattle from a small French settlement about fourteen miles from this place. We pursued them for twenty six miles upon the ice which was so weak in many places that a six pounder which was taken with us broke through and was nearly lost, as did several of the officers who were mounted. I have waited with an anxiety which I cannot describe for a change in the weather and until this day I never abandoned the hope of being able to execute the plan which I had formed. It is now however the 11th of the month, the period for which the Kentucky troops (which first took the field) were to serve expires in four days as does that of four fifths of Tupper's Brigade. These poor fellows have suffered so much that they have resisted the strong appeal to their patriotism backed by a most

liberal offer of pay which has been made by their respective states. They will not engage for two or even one month but if I were ready to advance I am satisfied they would not hesitate to follow me. To pursue longer under the expectation of accomplishing the objects of the campaign during the winter is in my opinion no longer proper considering the enormous expense which a continuance of these efforts at this season daily produces and which could only be justified by a reasonable hope of success—under present appearances I can no longer indulge such hopes. Indeed I fear that I shall be censured for having cherished them too long and that I have sacrificed the public interest in a vain pursuit. I have no hesitation however in asserting that I have it in my power to satisfy the Government that their wishes would have been accomplished but for the unfortunate event at the River Raisin and others over which I could have no controle and that untill a few days since my calculations of succeeding were supported by the opinion of every General and Field officer in the Army. It remains for me Sir to inform you of the disposition I shall make of the Troops for the remaining part of the Winter. A Battalion of the Militia lately called out from this State with the Company of Regular Troops now at Fort Winchester will garrison the posts upon the waters of the Auglaize and St. Marys, the small blockhouses upon Hulls trace will have a subaltern command in each, a company will be placed at Upper Sandusky and another at Lower Sandusky. All the rest of the Troops will be brought to this place amounting to from fifteen to eighteen hundred men. I am erecting here a pretty strong fort capable of resisting field artillery at least. The troops will be placed in a fortified camp covered on one flank by the Fort. This position is the best that can be taken to cover the frontiers and the small posts in the rear of it and those above it on the Miami and its waters. The force placed here ought however to be stong enough to encounter any that the enemy may detach against the Forts above. Twenty five hundred would not be too many. But anxious to reduce the expenses during the winter within as narrow bounds as possible I have desired the Govr. of Kentucky not to call out but to hold in readiness to march the fifteen hundred men lately required of him. All the teams which have been hired for the public service will be immediately discharged, and those be-

longing to the public which are principally oxen disposed of in the settlements, where forage is cheaper and every other arrangement made which can lesson the expenses during the winter. Attention will still however be paid to the deposit of supplies for the ensuing campaign. Little remains to complete these. Immense supplies of provisions have been accumulated upon the Auglaize River and boats and perogues prepared to bring it down as soon as the River opens. I shall have the honor to give you a more particular account of these in a few days.

I regret that I had the misfortune to be misunderstood by Colo. Monroe in his Letter of the 17th ulto. in supposing that I had asserted in mine of the 4th that Malden could not be taken by first marching to Detroit and crossing the strait there with an army sufficiently strong and taking with it everything which it would want either for its subsistence or for annoying the enemy. it would certainly not be material at what point it would cross the strait. The whole tenor of my argument whenever the subject has been mentioned in my letters is that by going round by Detroit more time would be required to effect the object more provisions of course wanted and that if supplies of these were to be drawn from the rear each convoy must be strong enough to resist the whole of the enemy disposable force because the line of operation upon which these convoys would move passing almost in sight of Malden and the enemy having the means of crossing the Strait they could attack them when and where they pleased. I never doubted that our army would be able to go anywhere if sufficiently strong, and having with it such a quantity of provisions and other necessaries as to require no supplies from the Deposits in the rear. I have the honor to enclose you the deposition of a certain Medard Labbadi who was at the River raisen on the 22 ulto. and remained there until the 6th Inst. His account of the loss of the enemy in the action is corroborated by several others nor is there the least reason to doubt his statement as it regards the horrible fate of our wounded men. There is another circumstance which plainly shows that the British have no intention to conduct the war (at least in this quarter) upon those principles which have been held sacred by all civilized nations. On the 30th ultimo I dispatched Doctor [Samuel] McKeehan a surgeons mate in the militia

with a flag to ascertain the situation of our wounded. He was attended by one of our Militia men and a French man. On the night after their departure they halted near this place for the purpose of taking a few hours sleep in a vacant cabin upon the Bank of the River. The Cariole in which they travelled was left at the door, with the flag set up in it. They were discovered by a party of Indians (accompanied it is said by a British officer) and attacked in the manner described in the Deposition. Lemont the Militia man was killed and scalped the Doctor and the Frenchman taken, Doct. McKeehan was furnished with a letter addressed to any British Officer whom he might meet with describing the character in which he went and the object for which he was—(retained at some of the offices in consequence of its being too heavy for the ordinary conveyance. The envelope which covered the appointments of Captain Chunn and his subalterns had the Washington postmark of the 16th ultimo but it did not reach this place until yesterday.)

I have the honor to be with great respect sir your Humble Servt.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.

P. S. The information given by the party of Potawatamies mentioned in my last to Captain Taylor at Fort Harrison was that the Prophet was in the neighbourhood of his former residence with about 300 Winebagoes and about 200 of other Tribes and that he was daily gaining strength.

The Honble WILLIAM EUSTIS *Secy. of War.*[1]

P. S. I have the honor to inclose you herewith an abstract of the reports shewing the state of the effective force at different dates at this place. [Not found].

W. H. H.

MEDARD LABBADI TO HARRISON

Head Quarters foot of the MIAMI RAPIDS
Feby. 11th, 1813

Har. Pa. 928-930

The affidavit of Medard Labbadi late resident near the River Raisin in the Michigan Territory. He being sworn saith he was in his house when he heard the guns at the commence-

1. The part enclosed in parenthesis is evidently a misplaced page. It is given here as in the archives. The last P. S. belongs to the letter.

ment of the action at the River Raisen on the 22d Jany 1813 between the American forces under Genl. Winchester and the British Canadians and Indian forces said to be commanded by Col. St. George. After some little time he learned that the Indians were killing the inhabitants as well as the Americans, upon which he went toward the scene of action in order to save his family. As he went on the way with one other inhabitant [he was] taken prisoner by two Wyandot Indians, and carried to the Indian lines from which he saw great part of the action. The right wing of the Americans had given way before he got a sight of the action.

It terminated after the sun was some hours high not far from 11 o'clock. A. M. by the surrender of the American forces that then remained on the ground. He saw the flag hoisted by the British sent to the American forces and saw it pass three times to the Americans before the surrender. He could not understand English, but understood that Genl. Winchester was taken prisoner before he got to the lines of his own men. That he was compelled to carry the flag to his own forces after he was taken. That he understood the reasons of the flag passing so often was that the Americans refused to surrender upon any other terms than that the wounded should be taken care of. The dead buried and the inhabitants protected in their property. That the British first refused to agree to these terms but finally did agree to them. He also understood that the loss of the British and Indian forces in that action was about 400 killed. He also understood that the loss of the Americans in the action was about one hundred and eighty killed.

He knows that on the day of the action all the prisoners who were able to march were marched off towards Malden, the wounded about 60 or 80 in number left in two houses without any of their friends or a physician to take care of them and without any British officer or men, about 10 Indians remained behind upon the ground. The balance of the Indians went off with the British, and he was told by some of the Canadian Militia that the British had promised the Indians a frolick that night at Stoney Creek, about six miles from the River Raisin.

He was liberated after the line of march was formed for Malden. The next morning he was in the houses where the

wounded were. That morning about fifty Indians returned. They brought whisky with them. They drank some and gave some to the other Indians there between nine and ten o'clock A. M. commenced killing the wounded and then set fire to the houses the wounded were in and consumed them. He was at his fathers on this side of the Detroit river about seven days after the action and saw across the river the prisoners marched off for Niagara, from Malden.

He saith that he saw taken by his house by Capt. Elliott and nine Wyandotes Indians, two men that he understood had been sent by Genl. Harrison with a flag to the British. One of the men Mr. Tessier he knew. The other he did not know, but understood it was a doctor. He had not an opportunity of conversing with them but understood from an inhabitant to whom Mr. Tessier communicated that they stopped for the night and left the flag hoisted on the cariole. That the flag was taken away unknown to them and then the Indians fired on them. That he, Tessier, told them they were Frenchmen and surrendered, upon which the Indians ceased firing and took them. They then mentioned that they were sent with a flag. The Indians said they were lyars and took them off.

Mr. Tessier was set at liberty at the River Raisin and remained two days expecting the Doct. to return. At the end of which time Tessier was sent for by the British and taken to Malden. He understood that the Doct. was to be sent off immediately to Niagara. The Doct. was wounded in the ancle. He understood the British charged the Doct. and Tessier with being spies and farther he saith not.

his
Signed MIDARD X LABBARDI
marque

Witness: C. GRATIOT, Cap. of Art. and Inf.

Sworn to before me this 11th day Feby. 1813 Camp Foot of the Miami Rapids. Signed C. L. TODD,

A true copy Rd. GRAHAM, *aid de Camp*

GIBSON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

VINCENNES, Feb 17th, 1813

Har. Pa. 256

SIR:

Upon the reception here of the defeat of Gen. Winchester

and his detachment by Maj. [William] Prince, I immediately and officially communicated it to the Legislature of the Territory (who are now in session) and requested their advice to which they returned me, the enclosed answer. [Feb. 9 above] In consequence whereof and considering myself authorized by the General Instructions given to Governor Harrison previous to his departure from the Territory I have ordered into immediate service sixteen complete companies of the Militia of the Territory, which I shall have stationed in a line of (Block) Houses from the one extreme of our Territory to the other. Suffer me Sir, to remark that unless our Frontiers are protected by this or some other means, the whole of our Territory must break. For what are now our inner Settlements will become frontiers and adfinitum until the Ohio River will be the line of safety.

Permit me, Sir, to call your particular attention to my letter to the Hon. the Secretary of War, of the 13th, Ulto [see above] and indulge me here to reiterate the recommendation of those Gentlemen named in that letter as officers.

I have the honor to be Sir, with considerations of Respect and Esteem, Your Obed. and Humble Servant,

JOHN GIBSON

The Hon. Secretary of War

P. S. Should Gov. Harrison be successful, so soon as that circumstance is known here, the Company will be immediately discharged.

GIBSON TO THE PRESIDENT

VINCENNES I. T. February 17th, 1813

Har. Pa. 263, 264

SIR:

I take the liberty of transmitting to your Excellency my address to the General Assembly of this territory at their meeting the first week in the present month, and the answer, of the two Houses. [see Feb 2, 3, 5 above] I should not have troubled your Excellency with a perusal of those papers, had it not have been that I have been informed that the tongue of slander has been let loose upon me and in order to wipe off any impression that may have been improperly made upon your mind, or that of my Honble. Friend Mr. Jefferson, I

have thus trespassed upon your leisure. Having served and acted a pretty conspicuous part in our Revolutionary struggle and served as secretary of the Indiana Territory for upwards of twelve years, I should regret extremely that in the evening of my life any part of my conduct should be viewed in such a light as that I should forfeit the esteem of my country.

I have the Honor to be With considerations of Respect Your Excellency's Most Obed and Very Humble Servt.

JOHN GIBSON

His Excellency, JAMES MADISON,
President of the United States

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

No 40

Headquarters MIAMI RAPIDS 18th Feby. 1813

Har. Pa. 932-934

SIR:

I can not make any great calculations upon getting 12 months volunteers from the Militia now in the field. There are many of them who express a great willingness to serve but having been so long from Home they must return first to see their families.

I have explained my opinion so fully upon the subject of the proposed operations in the spring that it remains only for the Government to determine whether the attack upon Malden and Detroit shall be made as early as possible round the Head of the Lake or whether we shall wait the construction of a naval force capable of opposing that of the enemy with success and assisting the operations of our Troops in the same direction or transport them to the Northern shore.

If the former plan is adopted a much larger force would be required, but the object would be sooner attained. From what I learn of the state of the feelings of the people both in this state and Kentucky there will be a vast body of volunteers ready to take the field early in the spring. They will however be principally mounted. I am informed today by General Meade from Meadsville Pennsylvania that a number of volunteer corps could be procured in that part of the State to join this army and that these corps that behaved so illy last year at Buffaloe are particularly anxious to serve in this direction to wipe off the disgrace of their former ill conduct. I daily

receive applications from persons who wish to join the army in the spring with mounted corps, but there seems to be a great disinclination to serve on foot.

I have not yet received the late Law for raising an additional Military force, as soon as it reaches me and I receive your instructions as to the number and description of Troops that are to be employed I will put in motion every engine in my power to procure them. Two men from the River Raisin who arrived here on the sixteenth confirm the accounts heretofore communicated of the unhappy fate of our wounded, and the imprisonment of the bearer of the Flag of truce I sent in. It is also certain that Malden has received an accession of force from below. The accounts as to its strength varies from one hundred and twenty to six hundred Regulars and one account adds a considerable body of Indians.

I have the Honor to be very respectfully Sir yr.

Obt. Servt.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Honble JOHN ARMSTRONG, Esq. *Secretary of War*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 41.)

Headquarters MIAMI RAPIDS 20th Feby. 1813

Har. Pa. 931

SIR:

Last night three respectable Frenchmen came into camp from the River Raisin and returned again before day. The accounts given by them with regard to the events of the late action and the murder of our prisoners confirm those given in my last. [see Feb. 11 above] The British have been reinforced at Malden, but they could not ascertain the number. About 3 weeks ago the keel of a vessel of war much larger than the Queen Charlotte was laid at Malden. 30 men work upon her and 300 sailors and workmen are expected from Quebeck daily. One of the Frenchmen above mentioned was told by a British officer that the vessel would be completed by the last of June.

I have the honor to be with great respect

Sir your humble Svt.

WM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble The Secy. of War

Ohio Militia Officers to Harrison

Head Quarters camp, Miami Rapids Feb. 20, 1813

Dawson, *Harrison*, *376*

Sir:

The service of the troops under our respective commands, in many cases having expired, and in all being about to close, it becomes necessary that we should shortly retire from the field. Permit us, Sir, (the general and field officers of the two brigades from the state of Ohio,) to address you at a moment in which the eyes of the whole people of the United States are directed towards your movements; at a time the inhabitants of the state of Ohio have everything to hope from your success, and every thing to dread from unfortunate events, should such attend your opperations. The misfortunes attending the capitulation at Detroit, were not confined to the disgrace of that surrender, the loss of service of so considerable a force, the property give up or territory abandoned; it effects wounded us still deeper—it rendered the soldiery suspicious of the skill and integrity of their commanders, excited jealousy and distrust, which the enemies of our government were spreading through the country, with views most wanton and disgraceful. At such a moment, Sir, and under those unpleasant circumstances, you were appointed to the command of the northwestern army, to regain the territory so shamefully yielded up, to wipe off the stain from our arms, and to teach our enemy that he who could descend so far below civilized warfare, as to associate with savages, and mark his track with the blood of innocent victims, (sheathing his scalping knife in the hearts of defenceless women and children) should not find a resting place within the reach of our arms. Great was the undertaking, and numerous the obstacles which opposed your progress; a wilderness of nearly one hundred and fifty miles was to be traversed, which with its swamps and morasses presented difficulties far greater than the Alps, Great as were these obstacles, relying on the willingness of your troops to endure any hardships, to reach the enemy, you rightly judged that they might be surmounted. A few weeks past, every circumstance united to promise you an immediate accomplishment of your designs. Large supplies of provisions, and numerous munitions of war were so far advanced as to be within your control; your troops, with an unbounded

reliance on your judgment and skill, were eager to be led up to the enemy, and waited but your order to march; your exertions had been great, and everything promised the suffering soldier a speedy reward for his toils. At this important moment the unfortunate movement of general Winchester to the river Raisin, with its unhappy consequences, (a movement we believe without your orders or concurrence) broke the successful chain of operations, and presented new and unlooked for difficulties before you.

On retiring from service, Sir, we are happy in assuring you of our fullest confidence, and that of our respective commands, in the measures you have taken; they have been cautious, skilful, and guarded such as would at this time have carried our arms to the walls of Malden, had not the unhappy occurrences at the river Raisin checked your progress, and for a short time thwarted your plans of operation. That you may soon teach the enemy the distinction between an honorable and savage warfare, by planting our standard in the heart of their country, and regain the honor and territory we have lost, and as a just tribute to valour, toils, and suffering, receive the grateful thanks of a generous and free people, is among the first, the warmest wishes of our hearts.

EDWARD W. TUPPER, *Brigadier General*
SIMON PERKINS, *Brigadier General*
CHARLES MILLER, *Colonel*
JOHN ANDREWS, *Lieutenant Colonel*
WILLIAM RAYEN, *Colonel*
ROBERT SAFFORD, *Lt. Co. 2d regt. Ohio quota*
N. BEASLEY, *Major*
JAMES GALLOWAY, *Major*
SOLOMON BENTLEY, *Major*
GEORGE DARROW, *Major*
W. W. COTGREAVE, *Major*
JACOB FREDERICK, *Major*

His Excellency WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, *Commander in Chief of the North Western Army*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

No 42

Head Quarters (Camp Meigs) MIAMI RAPIDS,
24th Feby. 1813

Har. Pa. 939-942

SIR:

I had not the honor to receive the letter of Colo. Monroe of the 21st ult. [see above] until this evening.

I am still occupied in Fortifying the Camp at this place. A few days will place it in a situation with twelve or fifteen hundred men to bid defiance to all the force in Upper Canada.

The destruction of the enemy's naval force in Lake Erie has never ceased to occupy my attention and after having examined in my mind every prospect which occured to myself or those whom I consulted there appears to me to be no other practicable but that of crossing over Lake Erie from the mouth of the Sandusky Bay along the chain of Islands which extend at small intervals from that bay to within eighteen miles of Malden. The intention is to put from one hundred and fifty to two hundred men in sleds to pass to the northermost island in one night and on the succeeding one to reach the vessels some hour before day. The Detachment is selected and combustible matter preparing. The command will set out from hence the day after to morrow for Lower Sandusky. Last year sleds frequently passed over the Lake in this direction. I have procured a pilot who is or who says he is well acquainted with the Islands. A respectable man whom I some times since selected for the purpose and who resided many years on one of the islands unfortunately died ten days ago and it is only within a few days that I have been able to find another. I have no Field officer who possesses all the qualities I could wish for such an enterprise. A very young man Capt. [Angus Lewis] Langham of the 17th Regt. will have the command of it. The season is a little too far advanced—but I have strong hopes that it may succeed. In my last I informed you that the British had commenced building another vessel of War of larger size than the Queen Charlotte. Expedition in the building and equipment of our vessels may prevent this vessel from being useful to them.

The whole of the Troops are now actively engaged in fortifying the Camp here in such a manner as bid defiance to any

effort of the enemy. A few days will complete it. As soon as it is done I shall leave the command here to Genl. Leftwitch of the Virginia Brigade and proceed to Franklinton and Chillicothe for the purpose of receiving your instructions and facilitating the organization and equipment of the force destined for the operations in the spring. I cannot at present tell what may be done in the western country under the late law of the U. States for raising 12 months men, nor of course, what auxiliary force, will be wanted from the Militia. From the letters I have received from Kentucky I believe the ardor for the service has not abated and I am persuaded that volunteers for the campaign can be procured to any amount if they are allowed to serve on horseback. The body of the army must however be Infantry and if a sufficient force cannot be procured in Kentucky and Ohio I would recommend detachments from the Virga. and Pennsylvania Militia. The Kentucky Troops that were with this army have all been discharged excepting a few companies that are in garrisons. The last of those from Ohio will be dismissed to day. Those from Virginia, Pennsylvania and a few regulars are all that will remain, they however will be sufficient to protect the posts. But I fear that the Kentucky Troops may not be here in time enough to relieve them by the first of April when the term of service of the Pennsylvanians and Virginians will expire.

I have not received the return of the quantity of provisions on hand at the several posts, the supplies however are immense and quite sufficient for the operations of the coming summer.

I am Sir with great respect and esteem your obt. Servt.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Honble JOHN ARMSTRONG, Esq. *Secretary of War*

S. G. HOPKINS JR. TO HARRISON

UPPER SANDUSKY, Feb. 24, 1813

Dawson, *Harrison*, *440*

DEAR GENERAL: I had hoped to have had the pleasure of waiting on you in person before I again return to the interior. It seems the malice of some mischievous and unprincipled person has represented to you that I had so far acted the hypocrite and poltroon, as to have spoken disrespectfully of and attempted to injure you, after your departure from

Kentucky. To colonel Campbell, whose friendship for me induced him to communicate this intelligence, I promptly and unequivocally declared its utter destitution of truth, and solicited him on his return from the expedition to Mississinaway, to make known this denial to you. At the period you received the appointment of major-general of the Kentucky quota of militia from general Scott, (an appointment to which my father had been regularly commissioned some time before) I confess my feelings were severely stung. I thought the measure calculated not only to inflict a tacit censure, but an egregious outrage upon the reputation and sensibility of him whom it was my duty most to venerate.

It is probable, and I hope it is the fact, that being ignorant of the train of circumstances that led to this event, I may have looked upon it improperly: but it is certain I still think it sufficient to dissolve all the ties of friendship hitherto existing between general Scott, the gentleman who advised it, and my father. Delicacy enjoined that I should be silent as related to every person concerned, and I aver most solemnly I was strictly so: common prudence, General, required that I should particularly seal my lips as it regarded you, for it is known to all, who know me, how ardently and sincerely I had been your advocate in every situation of life in which I have been placed. I was so from principle, and consequently claim no obligation from you for anything of this kind. Apart too from this consideration I here assure you that I had discovered nothing in your conduct to merit either my censure or resentment, and, so help me God, you never had either. It is due to truth and my feelings that I should request you to acquaint me with the name of the person who has so unjustly and insidiously assailed me. If consistent with your situation towards him, I trust I shall be gratified in this particular.

A court of enquiry on the conduct of my father will, I am informed, be held in Frankfort on the fourth of March next. With your permission I will request major [James V.] Ball for a furlough to attend there at that time. The major will judge of the propriety or impropriety of granting the application at the period at which it will be solicited. It is the first indulgence of the kind I have ever sought, and you will at once appreciate the feelings which dictate it in this instance. A line from you (directed to Lebanon) as soon as

your convenience may permit, will be most thankfully received. Pardon the trouble I am giving you: and the confusion with which I am surrounded must plead my apology for the imperfect manner in which I have addressed you. I have the honour to be, most respectfully, your friend and servant.

S. G. HOPKINS

BAKER TO WINCHESTER

BRITISH NIAGARA, Feb. 25, 1813

Niles' Register IV, 94

Brigadier-General WINCHESTER

SIR: In compliance with your order of the 29th, January directed to Dr. Bowen and myself, I took charge of the American prisoners at Sandwich on the 30th of the same month. On the 15th inst. I was ordered on to this place by col. Proctor; having arrived I deemed it my duty to report to you whatever transpired with the prisoners under my charge, and the information I was able to collect concerning the other prisoners taken by the Indians.

The enclosed report marked (A) gives you a view of all the prisoners who were under my charge during my stay at Sandwich, their respective companies, regiments and physical condition, along with the names of the British officers, by whom they were sent to Sandwich.

From this report you will discover that of the fifty-two prisoners thirteen were at Sandwich. On my arrival from Detroit, 7 men were sent from Malden by col. Elliott, one was obtained by Col. Baubee, and 33 including those who came over with Dr. Bowen and myself, were sent from Detroit by Major Muir, British commander of the American fort there. For the greatest number of our unfortunate fellow soldiers being sent from Detroit, we are indebted to the exertions of our prisoners, fellow-citizens there, who with an unexampled generosity, when they saw their countrymen driven through the streets like sheep to a market, lavished their wealth for their ransom; nor was the procuration of our liberty all—we had been almost entirely stipped by the Indians; cloathes such as the exigence of the occasion permitted to be prepared, were furnished us.

Enclosed I send you a roll of 33 prisoners who were sent from Sandwich on the 8th inst. as well as eleven who came on

to this place with Dr. Bowen and myself, and of 5 others who remained at Sandwich under the care of Dr. Samuel M'Keehan, surgeon's mate 2d regiment 2d brigade, Ohio volunteers.

The prisoners at Sandwich with the exception of Jesse Green will all recover, and much is to be hoped for him.

One man died on the 1st instant, Martin Netherford, a private in capt. Bland W. Ballard's company, 1st regiment Kentucky volunteer riflemen.

On the 8th inst. col. Proctor ordered me to make out a return of all the prisoners who were killed by the Indians subsequent to the battle, agreeable to the best information I could collect. The enclosed return marked (B) [see Jan 22 above] was produced by this order; I might have added the gallant capt. Nathaniel Gray S. Hart, deputy inspector-general; captain Virgin M'Cracken, of col. Allen's regiment; captain John H. Woodfolk, your secretary; ensign Levi Wells of the 7th U. S. infantry, and a number of privates, who I find by subsequent information have been massacred. The memory of past services rendered me by captain Hart's family, made me particularly anxious to ascertain his fate, I flattered myself he was alive, and every information I could get for some time flattered my hopes; but one of the last prisoners who was brought in told me that the captain was certainly massacred; he was so badly wounded as to prevent him from walking; the Indians took him some distance on a horse, but at length took him off and tomahawked him.

About the 10th instant, and Indian brought captain M'Cracken's commission to Sandwich; the paper was bloody. The fellow said be took the captain in trust, but some time after when stripped and examining him, he found an Indian scalp in his bosom, which induced him to kill him. This you cannot but be assured is an humbug of the fellow's own marking to screen himself from the odium of barbarity. The captain's character and the danger that attended his carrying such furniture in a disastrous battle, gives it the lie.

Captain Woolfolk after having been wounded in two places, by some means had got refuge in one of the French houses on the Raisin—he was discovered next day and dragged from his asylum—he was taken to the house of a Mr. Lasselle, where he said he would give one thousand dollars to any one who would purchase him. Mr. Lasselle said it was not in his power,

but he had no doubt his brother would do it who lived at hand —he directed his owners to the house of his brother, but as they were on their way an Indian from a waste house shot him through the head.

Ensign Wells was taken from my side unhurt. I considered him alive until on my arrival at this place, captain Naggs told me he was killed by a puttawatamie Indian, not long after he was taken.

Many fresh scalps have been brought us since the battle, and dead bodies seen through the country, which proves that others have been killed, whose names I have not been able to find out; independent of those reported to colonel Proctor.

This sir, is all the information I have been able to collect concerning those who were massacred. The fifteen or eighteen mentioned in the remarks to the return made to colonel Proctor, whose names do not appear, were not known by those who saw them killed.

Major Graves of the 5th regiment of the Kentucky Volunteers I have been able to get no information of, further than that he was brought to the river Rouge on the 25th or 26th of January, in a sleigh; I fear from our not having heard anything of him since, that he is no more and that valuable officer is forever lost to his country.

Enclosed (C) gives you the names of those who from good information are still in the bush. At a rough guess founded on the few facts I have been able to glean. I may say, with some certainty that there are still thirty or forty alive with the Indians.

The prospect of a speedy return of those poor fellows I think but gloomy, as colonel Proctor has issued an order, enjoining individuals to purchase no more; and the Indians have been paid a greater price for those already delivered, than the government will give. Colonels Wells, Lewis and Allen's servants are acting as valets to Indian chiefs. Captain Hart's servant is alive, but where he is is uncertain.

The dead men of our army are still denied the rites of sepulture; at the time I left Sandwich I was told that the hogs were eating them; a gentleman told me he had seen them running about with sculls, arms, legs and other parts of the human system in their mouths. The French people on the river Raisin buried captains Hart, Woodfolk, and some others,

but it was more than their lives were worth to have been caught paying this last tribute of humanity to the dead.

I several times agitated the subject of burying the dead while in company with British officers, but they always answered, that the Indians would not suffer it.

Before I close this communication, I must in justice to my own feelings, mention those of our fellow citizens of Detroit, who were most serviceable to us. Colonel Elijah Brush, Mr. Richard Jones, Henry L. Hunt, esquire, Judge May, major Mack, and Mouse Godfrey, were most active; Oliver Williamson, esquire, Mr. Chittenden, Mr. Ten Eyke, Mr. Smart, Doctor Brown, Mr. Miller, Mr. M'Daniel, Monsieur Odrain, [Audrain] lieutenant Reed, Mr. M'Comb and many others purchased provision and aleviated our wants; others befriended, whose names through ignorance or want of retention are not inserted. But in paying a just tribute to our patriotic fellow citizens, who for their services to us, are driven from their homes, our fair countrywomen should not be forgotten. Young ladies were frequently seen soliciting their fathers for horses, and when they had gained their point, exchanged their presents for Kentuckians. Mademoiselle Lasselle and Labadie, Miss Scott, M. Hays and others deserve to be mentioned.

The exertions of these worthy people were directed and point given to them by our ever-to-be venerated countryman, Augustus B. Woodward, who with unwearied zeal exerted himself in our behalf at Detroit; he was the life and soul of the remaining Americans, the man to whom they all looked up for succor in the hour of difficuty; for advice in every occasion. This added to the influence he at first had with some of the British officers, enabled him to do wonders for us. This gentleman, whose exalted understanding entitles him to the first consideration for talents, appears to have no wish separate from the interests of his country; though eminenty qualified to enjoy society; he gives up all its sweets to shield the unfortunate of his country from savage cruelty and British oppression.

In the admiration of our countrymen, the deeds of our generous enemies should be remembered. Colonel Baubee took an active part in providing for our welfare, and showed that he possessed a generous nature, the noblest attribute of a soldier.

Colonel Eliott was serviceable in rescuing some prisoners from the Indians.

Major Muir is truly a gentleman and showed every disposition to serve us.

The reverend Mr. Pollard of Sandwich visited the hospital frequently, and read the service over Wetherford when he was interred. Captains Aikins, Curtish and Barrow, who commanded the guard of our prisoners, all deserve my thanks. Dr. Bowen was unwearied in his attendance upon our wounded, and during our stay studied only to aleviate their pain. He was ordered on to this place with me.

Dr. M'Keehan, is the gentleman who was sent through by general Harrison with a flag of truce, to attend the wounded. His wound had prevented him from doing much while we remained. He is a worthy man, and I have no doubt but the prisoners will do well under his care.

Wishing you health, and all the happiness your situation permits, I remain sir, with great respect, your obedient servant.

ISAAC L. BAKER *Ensign 2d. reg. U. S. Inf'y*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO R. M. JOHNSON

Feb. 26, 1813

McAfee, *History, 286*

SIR:

You are hereby authorized to organize and hold in readiness a regiment of mounted volunteers—the organization as to the number of officers and men, to be conformable to the military establishment of the United States. The governor of the state of Kentucky will be required to commission the officers when selected, to serve four months after being called into actual service; and six months if required by the United States—the pay of officers and men to commence from the actual service and march of the corps, under the direction of the war department. After marching orders, the contractors and commissaries' agents in the different districts through which it passes, will supply the regiment with forage for the horses and provisions for the men, if required so to do. The keepers of military stores, will also furnish said corps with ammunition on regular returns of the effective force of the regiment. If any difficulty arises as to rank, the commanding general will settle the same, after the corps shall have reached it place of destination.

ARMSTRONG

JENNINGS TO CONSTITUENTS

WASHINGTON CITY 27th Feby. 1813

Har. Pa. 450-452

FELLOW CITIZENS OF INDIANA

The General Government has authorized me to inform you that four additional Companies of Rangers may be raised in our Territory for the protection of its frontiers. Each company to consist of one Captain three lieutenants an ensign, five sergeants and six corporals and ninety privates. Those four additional companies of Rangers are to be raised by acceptance of Volunteers, who will of course choose their own officers. After any company shall have been thus formed, and shall have selected their officers, it will be necessary for them to signify the same to the Governor or Secretary of the Territory in an authenticated manner and tender at the same time their services as a company of Rangers through the Governor or Secretary to the President of the U. S. The pay of the officers will be the same as others in the army of the U. S. and the privates if mounted will receive one dollar per day, if not, seventy five cents.[1]

It is much to be desired, that every exertion will be made to have those companies organized as soon as possible and that they may be raised in such a manner, as will give to every portion of the Territory, that safety and that satisfaction so advantageous and desirable to its citizens.

Upon the subject of the protection of our frontiers, I have received numerous communications from you, but until now, it has been impossible for me to return any satisfactory or certain answer.

The house of representatives has passed a Bill giving further time to the purchasers of public lands to complete their payments. In its provisions it is similar to the acts passed the last session of Congress for that purpose and I have no doubt of its finally becomeing a law.

When we shall realise the return of peace I am unable to

1. This act provided for ten companies of rangers and bears date Feb. 25, 1813. *Annals 12 Cong. III, 1334.* The first company was organized Apr. 12, 1813. Williamson Dunn, capt., Henry Brenton, Henry Ristine, David Hillis, and Green B. Fields subalterns. The second company, same date, Pierre Andre, capt., Hyacinthe Lasselle, Homer Johnson, John Hadden, and David Gregg, subalterns. Third company, Apr. 30, James Bigger, capt., John Carr, James Currey, Wm. P. Meredith and John Owens subalterns. May 30 Frederick Shoults was appointed a capt.

Ex. Jour. U. S. 370

say, though I hope and expect that another year or less will in a great measure remove the dangers to which we have been exposed from the indiscriminating Tomahawk and scalping knife of the savage.

Most respectfully
I am your obedt. Hl. Servt.
JONATHAN JENNINGS

A true copy of the Original
BASIL PRATHER

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT March 3d, 1813
Har. Pa. 53, 54

To WILKINSON Major Gl. Same letters to Generals. LEWIS, HARRISON, HAMPTON, DAVY, OGDEN

SIR:

I have the honor to inform you that on the 2d instant the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate appointed you a Major General in the Army of the United States.[1]

P. S. You will be pleased, on receipt of this letter to signify to this Department your acceptance or non-acceptance of this appointment.

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

VINCENNES, Ind. Ter. The 4th ~~March~~ May 1813
Har. Pa. 443-445

DR. SIR:

I arrived at Jeffersonville in this Territory on the 7th ult. after a very fatiguing journey, tho' I enjoy my health very well.[1] We have no news here worth communicating—the Indians in small parties are frequently seen, and they commit some depredations—their chief object appears to steal horses. They have killed a few of the inhabitants and some of the

1. The following brigadier generals were promoted under appointment of Feb. 27 James Wilkinson, Wade Hampton, William R. Davy, Morgan Lewis, William Henry Harrison, and Aaron Ogdon. These were confirmed March 1.
Ex. Jo. U. S. II, 329, 330

1. The appointment of Posey to be governor of Indiana Territory was sent to the senate along with that of Harrison to be major general Feb. 27. Posey was not confirmed till Mar. 3, and then on a roll call 18 to 8. Both Ohio senators opposed him, and one each from N. Hamp., N. Car., N. Y., R. I., Penn., and Mass.

rangers. The rangers had a skirmish with the Indians six miles above fort La Mott, 25 miles above this, upon the northwest side of the Wabash in the Illinois Territory, in which two Indians were killed, and three of our men killed, and one wounded, this took place about ten days since, there were not more than ten of our men engaged and about 12 or 15 Indians—the Indians had the first fire. The Indians at different times have taken a good many horses, It is conjectured to move their families within the limits of Canada as well as to mount their warriors.

We have no news of what is passing at the City of Washington or anywhere eastwardly, owing to the eastern mail not coming on for three weeks. I hope our armies will be ready to take the field and make a descent upon Canada by the last of June if not before. I am making every exertion to get the militia in a good way. A regiment of militia have been stationed in various places, in stockade, and blockhouse fortifications, which afford considerable protection to the inhabitants. The turn of service for which they were ordered will shortly expire, and their places supplied by the rangers under the command of Col. [William] Russell. There are something upwards of an hundred regulars who are engaged in erecting a fortification in this town. Fort Knox being dismantled; and there are forty at fort Harrison. The Col. informs me there are five companies of rangers in the Territory, this with the regulars above mentioned are the whole of the force in addition to the militia in the Territory. No late information from Harrison's army.

I am with respect and esteem your obt. servt.

TH. POSEY

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT, March 5th 1813

Har. Pa. 55-57

Major Genl. W. H. HARRISON.

SIR:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Dispatches of the 11th, and 20th ultimo. [see above]

The suspension of your movement in advance appears to have been necessary—but though this may be the case, your demonstrations against Malden should not cease. These you

will make in such way as shall be best calculated to keep up the enemy's alarm for the safety of that post and of the ships of war wintering there. You will be more able to appreciate the value of this policy when I state that we shall very soon be in motion on the Niagara and the St. Lawrence.

You did well in stopping the march of the two Regiments from Ohio. To have added to your force so long as your object is restricted to the maintenance of your present position, would have been a very useless expenditure of both public spirit and public money.

As your campaign is now at an end and is nearly approached to that which is coming, it may be proper to communicate to you the President's views in relation to your subsequent movements.

It would appear that Malden can only be successfully approached by the route you are now upon at two seasons of the year—mid-winter and mid-summer. The former is gone and to wait for the latter would be hardly less disasterous than defeat itself. What remains for us to do is to keep our present ground till the Lake opens, and then to approach our object by water, and under convoy of the Vessels of War building at Presque Isle. These will be afloat and ready to operate by the middle of May. By the same time boats for the transportation of the Troops a train of artillery, baggage, etc. may be constructed. Cleveland is believed to be the place best fitted for this purpose. It will also be made the Depot for the Troops to be employed on the expedition, which will be the 24th Regiment now at Massac [southern Ill.] and three of the twenty new Regiments provided by an Act of the Session of Congress which closed yesterday. Two of these will be raised in the State of Ohio, and the third in that of Kentucky.

Whatever these troops may fall short of the number and strength contemplated by the Laws under which they shall be raised, must necessarily be made up from the militia and volunteers. Whence will arise the necessity of strictly attending to the progress of enlistments so that in the event of their failure, which may be readily forseen, time may be left for resorting to the other expedient.

The disbursements attending the employment of militia are so enormous, as to render indispensable some general rules which you will be careful to observe, and which are as follows *viz.*

1. All Militia Detachments in the Service of the United States must be made under the requisition of some Officer of the United States (regularly authorized to make such Requisition) on the Executive Authority of the State or of the Territory, from which the Detachments shall be drawn.

2d. In these requisitions shall be expressed the number of privates, non-commissioned and commissioned officers required, which shall be in the same proportions to each other as obtain in the regular army. The looser method of requiring Regiments or Brigades will be discontinued.

3d. So soon as one hundred privates, Eight non-commissioned and five commissioned officers shall have been organized as a company under any requisition as aforesaid, they will be mustered, inspected and received into the Service of the U. States, and upon the rolls and reports made in consequence thereof, they will be entitled to pay, etc. and—

4th. Payment will be made through the Regimental Paymaster in all cases in which the corps shall be organized as a Regiment, and in all cases in which it shall fall short of the number necessary to that organization, by the paymaster accompanying the Army or Division to which it may belong.

The Staff of your Division will be organized and instructed under the Law of which the inclosed Bill is a copy.

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT March 7, 1813

Har. Pa. 58, 59

Genl. WM. H. HARRISON

SIR:

Your letter of the 18 of February [see above] was from some cause delayed much beyond the usual course of the mail and even some days after the receipt of your Dispatch of the 20th.

You will find by my letter of the 5th Instant [see above] the plan prescribed for your part of the ensuing Campaign, and to prevent any ill effect arising from its miscarriage, a second copy is herewith inclosed.

It is probable that Colonel's [Duncan] McArthur and [Lewis] Cass will both be promoted to the Rank of Brigadier and will be assigned to the command of the two Brigades intended to form your Division of the Army. In the enumera-

tion of Corps making parts of this Division I did not mention the two Regiments of the Line, the 17th and the 19th, parts of which are already with you. The filling up of these would be an important service and you are requested to promote it.

If you are at ease with regard to the safety of your present post against the attacks of the enemy, and have secured to yourself the means of subsisting it, there can be no motive for either reinforcing it by new drafts from the militia, or retiring from it. If on the other hand your force should be so reduced as to make your stay perilous without a further reinforcement, you may employ the two Regiments raised in Ohio, or so many of them as may be necessary to your object. If again the policy of adding to your force be forbidden by the difficulty of subsisting it and there arises a combination of both facts, viz. a want of force to maintain your present position, and a want of means to subsist a larger one in that case and in that alone, you will retire to the frontier settlements and interpose the wilderness between you and the enemy. These directions have not grown out of any suggestions to be found in your letter but have been produced by a circumspection which it is always proper to extend beyond the mere limits of existing circumsances.

Gibson to Secretary of War

Vincennes, March 10th, 1813

Har. Pa. 260-262

Sir:

In pursuance of the authority given me by the Hon. Doctor Eustis, your predecessor I have succeeded so far in removing Fort Knox to this place as to have a considerable part of the necessary timber brought down, and the men quartered in town. But I am fearful that I shall not be enabled to progress in or complete the erection of the Fort in this place because of the great opposition made to my orders by certain officers of the Military here. They openly declare that they are not subject to my orders and act accordingly, to so great a degree do they contemn my orders, that Capt. [John F.] Chunn[1]

1. For a biography of John F. Chunn see article by A. C. Duddleston on Fort Harrison, Am. Mag. of Hist. XXVIII, 20. Robert Buntin Jr. was the son of the old recorder at Vincennes.

has gone from here with the few men under his command, notwithstanding I had positively ordered him to remain here untill I should receive your answer upon the subject of himself and Lieut. [Robert] Buntin[1] of which I had the honor of apprising the Hon. Secty. of War upon a former occassion.

Altho I have caused a number of detachments from our Militia to be placed out upon our frontiers still marauding parties of Indians slip into our settlements and murder and plunder. A few days ago two of the Militia men a part of a detachment stationed at the river Embarras, went out (contrary to orders) about half a mile from the Block house and were killed and scalped. A man has been killed at his sugar camp near the Grand Rapids (about 30 miles from here) and another near the Bomepart (about 50 miles) below here on the Wabash—and a number of horses have been stolen out of the settlements in this neighbourhod. An act of bravery worth being recorded took place the other day. The Indians had stolen some horses from the settlement on Busseron. They were immediately followed by a small detachment of United States Rangers. They however all gave out except two, ie, Sargt. James Stewart and another man, who followed on untill they arrived within sound of the Indian Camps and finding that the Enemy were too numerous they stole off two of the Indian's horses and returned.

Col. Russell, who has been absent from here since last December has not yet returned.

I have the honor to be with consideration of Respect and Esteem

Sir

Your Obt. and very hbl. Servant

JOHN GIBSON

The Honble. JOHN ARMSTRONG, *Secty. of War.*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

Headquarters FRANKLINTON 12th March 1813

No. 43

Har. Pa. 943-945

(Duplicate)

SIR:

I had the honor to inform you in my letter of the 25th ulto. [see Feb 24 above] that I had organized a Detachment for

the purpose of striking a blow at the vessels of war of the enemy laying near Malden. Captain [Angus Lewis] Langham with about 250 men in thirty sleds and sleighs set out from Lower Sandusky on the 2nd Inst. and proceeded as far as Bass Island in the Lake without difficulty. Contrary however to the experience of former years the Lake beyond was found to be entirely open. He was therefore obliged to return to the Miami Bay, where I met him with a detachment that was intended to cover his retreat. Finding that the original design was rendered abortive I had determined upon an expedition to the River Raison for the purpose of burying the remains of our unfortunate countrymen who fell on the 22d Jany. But the ice was so weak as no longer to afford a safe passage along the edge of the lake. Our horses were constantly breaking through and one man was unfortunately drowned. I therefore returned to camp with the whole of the detachment. And on the 7th Inst. set out for this place. I left Genl. Leftwich in command at Camp Meigs. The fortifications of which were so far completed as to render it perfectly secure against any attempt of the enemy. Indeed the cause which prevented the advance of my detachment to the River Raisin would also prevent the Enemy from approaching the Rapids at least with artillery. I have the honor to enclose herewith a plan of Camp Meigs, The Redoubt Marked F is yet to be erected. Col. [James] Morrison has determined to resign his appointment as Deputy Q. M. Genl. There is not a man in the United States who is in my opinion capable of discharging the duty of that department with as much advantage to the public as himself. He is lost to the service in consequence of the singular arrangement which was made by the late Secretary of War of sending on another Dept. Q. M. Genl. with equal powers to those vested in Colo. Morrison. Since the departure of Captain [John H.] Piatt I have used my utmost endeavours to prevail upon Colo. Morrison to continue in service, but he perseveres in his determination to retire at the end of this month. A report has reached us this morning that Genl. [Morgan] Lewis is appointed a Major Genl. Should this be the case I am convinced that the interest of our country would be greatly promoted by the appointment of Colo. Morrison to succeed him, The duties of Q. Master to the North Western Army do not require so much Military

information as is necessary for the officer or the head of that Department in the other sections of the Union. An intimate knowledge of the Western country and its resources with integrity and activity are the essential qualifications. These are possessed by John C. Bartlett[1] Esq. acting at present as Field Comissary in an eminant degree. He would possess moreover the confidence of the Western country—particularly of Kentucky.

I have not yet had the honor to receive any communication from you upon the subj. of the organization of the force for the ensuing campaign.

With great respect I have the Honor to be Sir Yr. Hb. Sv.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

I have understood that the duplicate of this has been lost by the person who had charge of it in the Scioto [river].

W. H. H.

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

No. 44

Headquarters FRANKLINTON 13th March 1813

Har. Pa. 946, 947

SIR:

I had the honor this day to receive your favor of the 3d Inst. [see above] I must beg you to believe that I properly appreciate the distinguished mark of the President's confidence, manifested by my appointment to the rank of Major Genl. in the army.

I found at this place about eighty of the Militia which were lately called into service from this state. And as it is absolutely impossible for them to proceed by the Sandusky route I have ordered them to St. Marys there to be embarked upon that river. Two out of the four divisions of Militia in this State have turned out but a small proportion of their quotas. One fourth of the whole number called for is required to garrison the Posts on the St. Marys and Auglaise and nearly an other fourth for those of upper and Lower Sandusky and Forts McArthur and Findlay upon Hulls road. The remaining Five or Six hundred were intended for the Rapids and would have been sufficient with the regular Troops and volunteers now there to have maintained the post untill the last of

1. John C. Bartlett of Ky. was appointed Quarter Master Gen. Apr. 12, 1813.

April. But the deficiency above mentioned has obliged me to order in all the recruits of the 19th Regt. that have been enlisted in this State and to send an express to Govr. Shelby requesting him to forward a part of the Militia formerly called for as speedily as possible. I fear however that they will not be able to reach the Rapids, before the expiration of the term for which the Virginia and Pennsylvania Militia was called out.

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir Yr
Hb. Sevt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honb. JOHN ARMSTRONG, Esq. *Secy. of War*

(Endorsed)

H. Q. Franklinton 13 Mar. 1813. Genl. W. H. Harrison ack. letter of the 3d inst. Has ordered in the Recruits of the 19th Regt. from Ohio and made a requisition on the Gov. of Kentucky for a detachment of Militia to secure his posts.

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

CITY OF WASHINGTON 14th March, 1813

Har. Pa. 277, 278

SIR:

It would have given me pleasure to have had a short conversation with you upon the subject of Military supplies for the Territory of Indiana, but circumstances have not admitted it. I am urged on my journey from imperious necessity.

The information that I wished was as relates to military supplies of arms and other munitions of war that may have been ordered on, or may be in contemplation to be ordered on by the Gen. Government. I would have seen you this morning but know you must have recourse to the records of the department of war which probably would cause delay and company is waiting. You will much oblige me by a few lines upon the subject as early as possible direct to me at Vincennes.

I have the honor to be with much respect
Your Humble Servant

TH. POSEY

SECRETARY OF WAR

WAR DEPARTMENT March 17, 1813

Har. Pa. 61

SIR:

Careful store-keepers should be appointed at the several places at which provisions have been deposited and the provisions themselves should be inspected and re-packed.

Major General WM. H. HARRISON

SECRETARY OF WAR

WAR DEPARTMENT March 17, 1813

Har. Pa. 62, 63

SIR:

Your last Dispatch received at this Department is of the 24th ultimo. The services of the Troops under your command having become those of posts and little probability existing that their more active operations when resumed, will be on a route requiring the aid of draft-horses or draft-oxen you will no doubt have disencumbered yourself of the heavy train of these which was unavoidable so long as you expected to have reached Malden by land.

Your supplies also being abundant and even co-extensive with the consumption of the next summer, all further expenditures of this description will be forborne.

The frequent and heavy demands made by your agents and other reasons of a public nature, render it necessary to limit their drafts on this Dept. They will hereafter not exceed twenty thousand dollars per month until their accounts are settled.

You will therefore direct all such officers as have been employed in the Qr. Master's Department and all purchasing agents for the north western army to prepare and forward their accounts and vouchers to the accounting of this Department for immediate settlement.

A Brig. General will be appointed to command the District composed of the Territories of Indiana Illinois and Missouri and to him will be confided the command of the Rangers and militia within these territories.

Major Genl. HARRISON

Harrison to Secretary of War

Head Quarters Chilacothe 17th March 1813

Har. Pa. 948-959

Sir:

I had the honor this day to receive your communication of the 5th Instant. [see above] I have in a former letter informed you that I thought it necessary to reiterate my application to the Governor of Kentucky for the two Regiments which I had requested him to organize for immediate service. This step was taken after the most mature deliberation and upon the fullest conviction not only of its propriety but of its absolute necessity. With the exception of two Remnants of Tribes and a part of another we are now at war with all the Indians, which formed the confederacy that was opposed by the army under General Wayne, with the addition of Several numerious and warlike Tribes and the whole of this savage force directed by the skill of British officers and supported by the steady valour of British veterans. Several important posts have been established in the immediate vicinity of the enemy in which and in those which connect them with the settlements large supplies, have been deposited of immense value from their actual cost and of vital importance to our future operations. With a frontier so extensive to protect and a deposit so sacred to guard against the attempts of any enemy as subtle and formidable as Indians and British when united certainly are—I could not think that a force which in the agregate would not exceed three thousand and which from experience I knew would not amount to two thousand effectives would be two large. The post at the Miami Rapids may be maintained for some weeks with Five hundred or six hundred men. It ought not however in my opinion to have less than twelve hundred. The Forts upon the Auglaize and St. Marys seven in number including Fort Wayne must be kept up to preserve our convoys. That of Lower Sandusky is so important and so easily assailable as soon as the lake is navigable that I feel great apprehentions for it altho' protected by two companies. That at Upper Sandusky has now within its walls upwards of three thousand barrels of Flour Twelve thousand bushels of forage and other valuable stores, surrounded by three hundred Wyandot Warriors whose friendly disposition can not be considered unequivocal. I could not commit its

protection to less than two weak companies. At McArthurs and Findley's Block Houses there are nearly three thousand barrels of flour which also require protection and the Five thousand which are at St. Marys (Girtys Town on the Map) and Amanda (Tawa Town on the Auglaize) cannot descend to the Rapids in safety without escorts even if it were not necessary to send Troops to the Rapids to supply the place of the Virginia and Pennsylvania Militia whose term of service will expire in fifteen days.

*The known candour of your character is a sufficient security for my receiving your pardon for the liberty I take in making objections to the plan of operations communicated in your letter of the 5th Inst. If there is a positive certainty of our getting command of Lake Earie and having a regular force of three thousand five hundred or even three thousand well disciplined men the proposed plan of setting out from Cleaveland and landing on the northern shore below Malden would perhaps be the one by which that place and its dependencies, could be most easily reduced. I am unacquainted with the extent of the preparations that are making to obtain the naval superiority upon Lake Earie, but should they fail and the Troops be assembled at Cleveland, it would be dificult to get again upon the proper track for making the attack round the Head of the Lake. The attempt to cross the Lake from Cleaveland should not be made with any other than well disciplined Troops. A comparatively smaller number of men of this description could effect the object and for those the means of conveyance might be obtained. But the means of transporting such an army as would be required of Militia or undisciplined regulars could not be procured. I can see no reason why Cleaveland should be prefered as the point of embarcation for the Troops or the deposit of provisions and stores. These are already accumulated at the Rapids of Miami or in situations to be easily sent thither to an amount nearly equal to the consumption of a protracted campaign. Altho the expence and difficulty of transporting the provisions, artillery and stores, for an army round the head of the Lake would be very considerable, the Lake being possessed by our ships and the heavy baggage taken in boats along its margin the troops would find no difficulty in the land route. The force contemplated in your letter is in my opinion not suffi-

cient to insure success. Admitting that the whole should be raised by the time pointed out they would be very little superior to militia, the officers having with scarcely an exception to learn their duty before they could instruct their men, we have therefore no alternative but to make up by numbers, the deficiency in discipline. I am well aware of the intolerable expence which attends the employment of a large militia force. We are now however in a situation to avoid the errors which made that of the last campaign so peculiarly heavy. Our supplies are procured and so deposited that the period for the march of the army from the advanced posts can be ascertained to an hour; and of course the troops need not be called out until the moment they are to act. Experience has convinced me, that militia are more efficient in the early than in the latter part of their service. Upon the whole it is my decided opinion that the Rapids of Miami should be the point of Rendezvous for the Troops as well as the principal depot. Indeed it must necessarily be the first deposit, the provisions for the army being so placed that they can be taken to the Lake in no other way. The Artillery and a considerable supply of ammunition are already there. Boats and perouges, have been built in considerable numbers on the Auglaize and St. Marys Rivers and every exertion is now making to increase them, intended for the double purpose of taking down the provisions to the Rapids and for coasting the Lake with the baggage of the army in its advance. I had calculated upon being able partially to use this mode of transportation even if the enemy should continue their naval superiority on the lake—but with this advantage on our side the whole baggage of the army could be safely, and expeditiously carried along the coast in the boats and Perouges which could be taken into the Strait to transport the army to the Canada shore. As I have before observed, the army unincumbered with heavy baggage would find no difficulty in marching round the lake at any season, but what the enemy would create; and we have the means of subsisting a force that would be irresistable. The objection to proceeding in this way stated in my letter to Mr. Monroe arose from the time that would be necessary to construct boats after we should have arrived at the Strait but this objection is entirely obviated by our obtaining the command of the Lake as the boats and perouges built upon the Miami will answer the purpose.

With regard to the quantum of force, my opinion is that not only the regular Troops, designated in your Letter, but a large auxiliary corps of Militia should be employed. The only objection arrises from the expensiveness of troops of that description. This however could not be an object considering the very short time that it would be necessary to employ them. Let the moment for the commencement of the march from the Rapids be fixed, and the Militia might be taken to that point proceed and accomplish the object and return home in two months. Amongst the reasons which makes it necessary to employ a large force, I am sorry to mention the dismay and disinclination to the service which appears to prevail in the western country. Numbers must give that confidence which ought to be produced by warriors valour and intrepidity which never existed in any army in a superior degree than amongst the greater part of the militia which were with me through the winter. The new drafts from this State are entirely of another character and are not to be depended upon. I have no doubt however but a sufficient number of good men can be procured and should they be allowed to serve on Horse Back Kentucky would furnish some regiments that would be not inferior to those that fought at the River Raisin and they were in my opinion superior to any militia that ever took the field in modern times. Eight troops of cavalry have been formed in Kentucky to offer me their services and several of them were intended for 12 months volunteers. Gov. Shelby has some thoughts of taking the field in person; a number of good men will follow him. He thinks that an address from me to the people of the state would produce a good effect. I have strong objections to those addresses but will nevertheless have recourse to one should other means fail of bringing forward a sufficient force.

Every exertion shall in the mean time be used to forward the recruiting service. For a few weeks I think that my services would be more useful in that than any other employment.*[1]

For the want of another officer who is qualified for so important a charge I have been obliged to order Colo. [John] Miller of the 19th to Camp Meigs and have committed the recruiting district to Major [John] Whistler until the arrival of

1. The parts of this letter between the two *'s were underscored by the secretary of war and formed the basis of the ensuing campaign.

Lt. Col. [John B.] Campbell who is in the southern part of Kentucky on furlough.

The British emissaries have been throughout the winter amongst the Indian Tribes engaging them for the service of the present spring. The Potawatimies and Miamies alone have agreed to furnish 1000 warriors and the British have promised to meet our army between the Miami Rapids and Malden. The Indians will not want to be cooped up in Malden. Knowing then the point, and having it in our power to fix the hour when the decisive action will be fought—why with such a population as the western country affords should we not have a force that will leave nothing to chance? I must again intreat your pardon for the freedom with which these observations are made and beg you to believe that whatever may be your final orders and however oposed to my own opinions they shall be executed with promptitude and fidelity. I shall be thankful for as early information as may be convenient as to the extent of the command which is intended for me and whether any cooperating expeditions to the westward are intended. Upon this subject my opinion is that feints well supported will answer every purpose of making divertions. It is the intention of the British to assemble for the protection of Malden all the Indians they can get. I do not therefore believe that any attempt will be made by a considerable force upon our settlements to the westward until late in the summer. They may however make demonstrations in that direction to cause a division of our force. Col. [William] Russell of the 7th Regt. has hitherto commanded under my orders in the Indiana Territory. He is I believe now in Kentucky. I shall order him to Vincennes immediately. I am convinced that I can render more service by remaining within the settlements in forwarding the recruiting service and organising the new army than by returning to the frontier. I beg leave to recommend that a Brigd. be sent on to take the command at the Rapids. I have understood that Genl. William Clark is to be appointed a Brigd. Having served several years with this gentleman and having a perfect knowledge of his character and talents I do not hesitate to say that in the kind of warfare in which we are engaged I had rather have him with me than any other man in the United States.

From the concluding paragraph of your letter I have sup-

posed that it was the intention of the President to permit me to nominate the staff of the N. Western army. I have not however done so, and shall wait your further instructions upon the subject.

I have the honor to be with perfect respect

Yr. Hb. Svt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble. JOHN ARMSTRONG Esq. *Secy. of War*

Indorsed:

Chilicothe 7th March 1813. Major Genl. Harrison. Has reiterated his request to the Gov. of Kentucky for additional forces—states forts and their strengths—thinks the Rapids a point of rendezvous preferable to Cleveland—Does not think the force assigned him sufficient for the object, cannot at first be better than militia—states the great advantage of commanding the Lakes—Col. Russell ordered to Vincennes.

SHELBY TO HARRISON

FRANKFORT March 20th, 1813

Har. Pa. 970-976

DEAR SIR:

By the mail of last evening I was favored by the receipt of your letter of the 12th inst. At the time it came to hand Brigdier Genl. Green Clay, and the Field officers of the Detachment now ordered from this State to the Rapids was in council at Lexington to determine on the most suitable places to assemble the troops on the rout to Limestone. Their rendezvous having been previously ordered by my self to be on the 29th inst. Immediately on the receipt of your letter I dispatched an express to General Clay, who will command the detachment, inclosed him a copy of your letter to me and directed him to fix upon such places for the rendezvous as would facilitate the movement of the troops on the rout to Cincinati as you request except such of them as would necessarily come by Limestone from the northeastern part of the state the whole of this detachment being ordered from the north side of Kentucky as it was believed they could join you from eight to ten days sooner than if ordered from the southern quarter of the state. My express to General Clay was instructed to arrive in Lexington this morning by daylight

before the board of officers should disperse. I cannot say exactly what portion of the troops may assemble at Limestone but probably not more than one Batalion.

The Residue of the Militia directed to be organized and detached by the Act of the 3d of Feby. last say 1500 infantry now stand detached from the Militia of this State in pursuance of that Law subject to any future requisition from the General Government.

It was truly unfortunate that you could not accomplish the destruction of the Queen Charlotte as without the command of Lake Erie it is evident to every reflecting mind, that no decent upon Upper Canada by way of Malden, can promise a favourable issue, and it will be madness in the extreme to put to hazard the best blood and interest of our country to attempt it until that event is effected, very many considerations might be urged in support of this opinion which have no doubt occurred to you, and are unnecessary for me now to repeat. I fear however that the British are also constructing vessells of War and that when the Spring opens they will be able to counteract us upon the Upper Lakes. It is said by some of the prisoners taken at River Raisin that seventy ship carpenters were met on the way to Malden by our men on their march to Fort George besides the enemy have many harbours of which we know nothing and at which they may be erecting vessels of war, whose timber and etc. are at places entirely out of our reach or conception.

The citizens of Kentucky feel a deep interest in the event of future operations against the enemy and I have no doubt if such measures for the reduction of Malden was adopted, as to promise success to the enterprise that the inhabitants of this state would litterally rise in mass to effect its destruction, and revenge the massacre of our fellow-citizens. It would be the extreme of folly and madness to enter upper Canada with a force barely sufficient to effect the conquest of any particular place. Our force should be an imposing one an army in which all would have confidence and success not less than from ten to fifteen thousand men—This would draw out men of talents, wealth, and influence, from whose exertions and enterprise everything might be expected that can be achieved by any set of men on earth. But my dear Sir, if our success is to depend on half measures such as have been too often experi-

enced during the late campaign, nothing more need be expected from Kentucky than what will be coerced by the Law of the Land, I wish sincerely that this subject could be impressed, deeply impressed upon the mind of our beloved President, that when he does invest you with power to make a decent upon Canada, that he would also authorize you to call for a force competent to the great object in view nor do I believe that any force ought to cross above until a sure foothold was obtained below to keep the enemy imployed in that quarter.

Governor Edwards has recently informed me that he has obtained satisfactory information that the British agents are extremely busy about the Lake Michigan and that quarter. That Dixon is embodying the Indians and has artillery, military stores etc. at Chicago. The proximity of this place to Fort Wayne makes it highly probable that it will be an object of attack early this season and renders prudent every precaution which can be taken to strengthen and secure it. Should the savages with the aid of a few pieces of artillery once succeed in taking one of our forts, particularly as important an one as that of Fort Wayne it will add much to their Spirit, for enterprise and plunder, and give them a confidence in their own strength which as yet they do not possess when brought in contact with the more common fortifications. It would also have a very alarming effect I fear upon our frontiers.

Within a few weeks past several volunteer troops of six months cavalry have been raised and have reported themselves to me and make applications for commissions and as yet I have not acted on them, not knowing that you would want them. You will be pleased to notify me of your wishes on this subject and if it is desirable I will proceed to organize and commission as many as may offer, or as you may suppose you may stand in need of.

I have with considerable concern learned that the Militia who served under you, have not received their pay. I do not know where the fault lies, nor that it will be in your power to remedy it, should it be, I know you will interpose with cheerfulness. I understood that Mr. [Jesse] Hunt of Cincinati was by stipulation to have come to this state, and paid over the money to the Regimental paymasters but has failed

to do so. I am also informed that the three Regiments of Detached Militia who served under Genl. [Samuel] Hopkins are in a similar situation. I have to acknowledge the receipt of your several letters of the 11th 16th 18th and 24th covering your extensive correspondance with the Secretary at War. I am highly pleased with the views you have taken of our situation, their general scope and tenor meet my entire approbation.

Accept my Dear Sir the Consideration of my high esteem and regard and remain Yr. Mo. Ob. Servt.

ISAAC SHELBY

General WILLIAM H. HARRISON
Commanding the Northwestern Army

EDWARDS TO SHELBY

KASKASKIA, (I. T.) March 22, 1813
Niles' Register IV, 148

A few days ago I transmitted to you important information relative to the British and Indians in the upper parts of this territory. An express yesterday brought me information that eighteen pieces of cannon and a British officer had arrived at Prairie de Chien. The ice is now completely out of our rivers. Some spies that I sent up the Illinois river are returned, reporting that they saw too much Indian signs to proceed as high up as they were directed. The express states that an Indian was discovered a day or two past very near to Fort Russell—he evidently was a spy.

I have melancholy presages of what is to happen in the country, particularly at Prairie de Chien, or rather at the mouth of the Ouisconsing. Should the British take possession of that place, I need not point out to you the difficulty of retaking it, or the importance of it to them. By water we should have to ascend 700 miles, by land not less than 400. Seven thousand Indians may easily be assembled at that place. Last year, in time of peace, there were 3377 there in the months of April and May. The following facts, which you need not doubt, will shew its importance: goods can be carried there from Montreal by the way of the Utawas river, more expeditiously, with less expense and more safety, than by way of the lakes. It is a fact that a canoe from Montreal by this route, arrived

with dispatches to a gentleman in Cahokia in 33 days. On his return he went in the same canoe to Makanac, by the Illinois river and could thence have descended to Montreal in nine days. The traders of Montreal have passed from lake Superior to the Mississippi, thence into the North West, and have been brought into collision with the Hudson Bay Company. The British can easily push a trade up the Columbia river. And combining all these facts, a person tolerably acquainted with geography of the country, the nature of the fur-trade, the inducements with the North-west Company to retain it, and the evident policy of the British in supporting it, can have no doubt of their inducements to occupy the mouth of the Ouisconsing.

These anticipations make me feel for my country's honor: certainly it must be destructive of its reputation to permit such plans to be realized. The point I have mentioned, once fortified, will be more difficult to take than Malden. I am well apprized of all the objections that may be made to these speculations, on the score of provisions; but those who make them cannot know much of the supplies that can be furnished by the settlements of Green bay (where there is an elegant merchant mill, fine farms, &c.) and Prairie de Chien itself.

I never could see the advantage of so great a struggle for Malden. Montreal once taken, it would fall of itself; and one single expedition would drive to the Mississippi country all the Indians that ever had intercourse with that place. It would not cut off the intercourse as has been supposed.

Notwithstanding I have regularly communicated information which must have shewn what our situation would be at this time, and notwithstanding our present difficulties, I am now as I was last year, totally without any instructions, acting upon my own responsibility. I have had great success in raising volunteers from the local militia; and neither they nor myself have been idle. I again set out tomorrow for the frontiers.

[NINIAN EDWARDS]

FLOYD TO GIBSON

CHARLES TOWN, March 24, 1813

Har. Pa. 274-276

DEAR SIR:

On the night of the twenty first about one o'clock at night

I had information that the Indians had attacked a house about 7 miles from this place and had killed and wounded several of the family I arose tho in very ill health and at sun up was at the place with about twenty men. We found the owner of the house a Mr Huffman killed, his wife badly wounded and one of his daughters slightly wounded and a little boy his grandson, missing, the Indians had also killed two horses and stripped the saddle, and bridles off them and taken them off after a little examination we found a trace made by horses and pursued it after a very forced march of about 20 miles came up with the Indians four in number. they had been detained crossing Mushkaqueteck which was very high and when we came in sight I believe that they were just getting out of the river on the opposite shore. I put spurs to my hors and before they had time to mount was on the oposite bank say thirty or forty yards apart one of the Indians who was either more unwilling or more unable to leave the horses than the rest was in the act of picking up his little cloathing and before I was prepared to fire he had retreated say twenty steps he again halted and stooped down appearing to be trying to get on a mokison and while in that attitude I took deliberate aim at his body perfectly fair as soon as my gun fired he sprung to his feet and turned and walked off from all appearance unable to run and where he had halted left one leggin his knapsack with all his little trinkets, I immediately ordered such of the men as were riding the stoutest horses to plunge in and swim across but in doing so out of five who made the attempt (myself amongst the number) only two guns were dry and two of that number were like to be drowned upon attempting to pursue I found that they had scattered and made to poor dry ridges where they could not be tracked. The bottom of the crick was all covered with water and we could find no blood. After I shot I believe there were nine or ten others fired at the same fellows back and him walking off before he got out of our gunshot. We brought in the horses and all the little plunder which they had.

In great haste I am Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

DAVIS FLOYD

Shelby to Harrison

March 27th, 1813

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book A", 70

Dr. Sir:

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt last evening of your favor of the 23rd inst., together with a copy of the letter of the Secretary of War of the 5th inst., to you and copy of your answer thereto also duplicate of your letter to me of the 12th inst., On the 20th inst., I had the honour of answering your letter of the 12th and of giving you some of my views of the ensuing campaign. On the same day I addressed a letter to the Secretary at War on that subject I inclose a copy of it for your information.

In these letters you will see that I have expressed in strong language my opinions of the importance of urging a much stronger force for the invasion of upper Canada than is contemplated by the Secretary at War. I see no cause to change my opinions on this subject. It is to be hoped that our orders which will arrive near about the same time, strongly urgin the same measure and written without any interchange of ideas between us, may induce our venerable president to think differently on the subject should it not I have serious doubt of the issue of the campaign.

It is extremely gratifying to me to learn that there is a prospect of our obtaining the command of Lake Erie and the waters above, the importance of this measure is incalcuable. I only wonder that it was not sooner duly appreciated—with the perfect command of the lakes and sufficency of watercraft It does not seem to me very important where is the point of embarkation that it must be in part from the rapids I have no doubt because the military stores &c., are already too far in advance to be taken to another Point. I am not sufficiently acquainted with the Canada side of lake Erie to say whether it will be best to commence the attack below Malden in preference to going round the head of the Lake. I am thoroughly convinced of the absolute necessity of a considerable force of Cavalry or mounted Infantry in the advance without it you will be perpetually harrassed by small parties of Indians who will defy the pursuit of footmen—as they retreat singly that is each warrior at his own will and on his own force—and

can only be pursued by a regular force or the pursuit will always be in danger of being cut off. If this body of horse cannot with perfect safety be taken across the Lake the embarkation at Cleveland should in my opinion be given up.

One advantage resulting from the plan of the Secretary at War will be that our preparations will be much better masked and there will be a strong probability that you would so far take them by surprise as to avoid the meeting of a very strong force before you reach Malden, you would also in all probability stand a better chance to have an equal selection of the ground for a general action, should one be offered you, than if you were to go round the Lake—Should you on the other hand go round the head of the Lake & have a General action with the British and Indians and gain a decided victory, it will in my opinion if well followed up decide the Indian War and the fate of upper Canada, particularly if in the meantime the forces on the Niagra should make good their attack upon Fort George and the adjoining country—

As much as I deprecate the mode of warfare pursued by the savages, I deem it indispensible that you should employ as many of those that remain friendly to us as you can, nothing but a clean ignorance of the true Indian character could induce a belief that they can be kept neutral, and if they could some will always be found among them who would carry news to our enemies, employ them and let them commit themselves by acts of hostility and they will in their own defense be faithful to us,

After the cold blooded masacre at Raison in violation of the solemn stipulation of a capitulation, to refrain from employing them against the enemy out of refined ideas of humanity would be folly in the extreme. Our enemy can never be taught the rules of civilized warfare but by retaliation.

I feel also well satisfied that through the number you will be able to engage they will be amongst the most valuable of your troops, and I am much mistaken if they will not be found as cheap as any other forces employed—But were that not the case we must meet the enemy in his own mode of warfare if he is bountiful to the Indians on his side we must not be nigardly to those on ours, It is certainly more economical to pay say 500 warriors two prices than to have to pay the additional troops which would be required were they to go over to the enemy.

A considerable number of Cavalry and mounted Infantry can no doubt be raised and organized here in a Short time, it will take a longer period to organize ordinary Infantry—and there can be no doubt but you will stand in need of them I know not what steps may be taking to raise the two Ohio Regiments spoken of by the Secretary at War in his letter to you as to the regiment to be raised in this State I am not yet informed that the appointments of any of the Officers have been made I am positive you need not calculate anything on it for certain by the middle of May, men cannot be so easily inlisted as to fill the ranks in less time than it took Congress to pass the bill.

If you should be authorized to make a further call on the Executive of this State, I shall hold myself in readiness to raise and organize with the least possible delay the forces that may be required should it afford me an opportunity of seeing you personally, I shall my dear sir feel myself highly gratified.

I received on last evening by Express a letter from Col [William] Russell of the 7th U. S. Regt. requesting my co-operation in a contemplated expedition against the Indians on the Wabash—as I forward by this mail a letter from Col. Russell to you brought by the express it will no doubt give you his views, a copy of my answer to him, I have the honour to enclose for your information.

ISAAC SHELBY

To General WM. H. HARRISON

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

Headquarters CINCINNATI 27th March 1813

Har. Pa. 960-969

(No. 47)

SIR:

I had the honor to receive your favor of the 7th Inst. [see above] on Tuesday last, and should have answered it by the return of the mail but was misinformed as to the time of its departure.

Those of the 15th and 17th [see above] arrived last evening. Had your letter of the 5th been received before the measures for bringing out the Militia which I had requested from the State of Kentucky had progressed so far that the day of General Rendezvous had been appointed and the men left their

Homes, I should have requested Govr. Shelby to countermand the order for calling them out altho I am well convined that if they are delayed four weeks we shall scarcely have a post remaining upon this frontier. The Militia which have been embodied from this state upon my last requisition are not sufficient to garrison the small posts.

One of the Divisions furnished Forty instead of Two hundred and fifty men.

In your letter of the 5th Inst. I am authorized to maintain or abandon the post at the Rapids of Miami as the one or the other may appear most proper under the circumstances which you mention.

It could not be abandoned without sacrificing the Artillery and valuable stores which are there, and which no Human Means that I know of could bring off through the Swamps that soround that place at this Season, to attempt to bring them up the Miami and Auglaize Rivers would from the length of time that it would take, expose the Detachment escorting them to inevitable destruction. I had therefore no alternative but to maintain the post. It is safe from the attempts of the enemy untill Lake Erie is navigable and as long as the Virginia and Pennsylvania Brigades of Militia remain there. On the 2d proximo, however the last of these Troops will be discharged. If it is not then strongly reinforced it will be in considerable danger. A smaller work would have been more defensable.

But I must confess that the Idea never occurred to me that the Government would be unwilling to keep in the field at least the semblance of an army of Militia until the regular Troops could be raised. A regular strong work calculated for Three or four hundred men could have been erected but with that force only at the Rapids there could be no possible impediment to the enemy in taking all the small Forts in the rear, excepting McArthurs Findleys and Upper Sandusky which are sorounded by a swamp. There are Three hundred Indian Warriors in the neighbourhood of Upper Sandusky (Wyandots and a mixture of Delawares and Munsees). Their friendship towards us is by no means unequivocal. An army of ours in their front will ensure their neutrality, but that army dismissed and a British and Indian force appearing amongst them nine tenths of these warriors would inevitably join them.

The posts of Upper and Lower Sandusky would fall and the whole frontier as far as Delaware at least, would be swept of its inhabitants. Further west in the immediate vicinity of Fort McArthur where we have a large deposit of stores there are one or two hundred Shawanoes and a mixture of Iroquois.

Their friendship for us is more to be depended on. But should the enemy appear in force a great part of the young men would certainly join them. Fort McArthur has not a man to defend it. Gov. Meigs sent there two companies called out for thirty days and they abandoned it at the expiration of that time. Still further west upon the Head of the Auglaize River is the large Shawanoe village of Wapochkonneta the chiefs of which, are altogether in our interest and may be relied upon. But the warriors like all others of their description might be easily seduced. Near to the village of Piqua the Delawares to the amount of nine hundred souls and upwards of two hundred warriors are encamped. Their chiefs are men of principle, but the greater part of their warriors are attached to the enemy and would join them whenever an opportunity offered. The disaffected can at any time they please communicate with the Hostile Indians. The posts of Wapockkanata Lorimers—St. Marys—Amanda—Jennings—Brown and Winchester (consisting of Block Houses, connected by pickets and having the immense supplies of provisions contained in the enclosed schedule) are immediately in the front of these people. Untill the arrival of the newly drafted Militia from this state the force for the defence of all these posts consisted of eighteen invalid regulars and a weak and worthless company of dismounted Rangers. As soon as Lake Erie is navigable the enemy could in six hours reach the post of the Miami Rapids or Sandusky bay with all their disposable force, and with any quantity of Artillery which they choose to bring. Admitting that the post at the Rapids could not have been taken (but what work with no greater natural advantages than that possesses could long resist a superior force, with the immense train of battering Artillery which the enemy could with such facility bring to bear upon it) without an army there capable of opposing the enemy in the field, nothing could prevent them from taking all our posts in the rear and I have before stated that they would find friends there willing to assist them in all their enterprises. It may be objected that

the retaining the post at the Rapids was injudicious. I answer that at the time it was occupied I had the strongest hopes of being enabled to advance against Malden and having gotten on there the artillery and stores when the ground was frozen they could not have been taken back, But there were many, very many, other considerations which determined me to retain that position. It is only necessary for me to mention one of them. The greater part of the supplies for the operation of the ensuing season were placed upon the Auglaize and St. Marys. Those rivers are navigable in the spring only. At that season they could be transported in boats to the Rapids for one-twentieth part of the expense which it would cost to take them by Land. Should the Rapids be abandoned they could not be reoccupied until the season for navigating the small rivers would have passed. With this view of the subject I could not hesitate (as I conceived that I possessed the Presidents authority for doing it) to call for a sufficient number of Militia to ensure an effective force at the Rapids of from fifteen hundred to two thousand and I regret that I have not the power of calling for as many more men effectually to cover Fort Wayne and the other posts in that direction. For the former I entertain great apprehensions. In a letter addressed to Colo. Monroe in January last, I explained the facility, with which an attack upon that place may be made from Chicago. I did not believe however that there would be much danger, until Lake Michigan was navigable but if the information [Mar. 22 above] received by Govr. Shelby from Govr. Edwards is correct, it may be invested much earlier. I have with the army two Capts. of Engineers (one of them Capt. [Charles] Gratiott) has been ill for many weeks, Captain [Eleazer Derby] Wood was sent to improve the work at Lower Sandusky. I shall order him immediately to Fort Wayne for the same purpose. The latter was once a strong regular work a fatal and false econimy caused it to be destroyed and a small picketted work substituted.

The order to the Q. Masters and Commissarys for the settling their accounts has been given; the measure is no doubt a proper one altho the high character of the principals of those Departments is a warrant for the correctness of their conduct.

The pack Horses which were unfit for service have been sold. The rest together with those purchased for the Artillery

have been placed in situations where they can be cheaply fed to recruit. This direction was given before I received your letter informing me that means were taken to obtain the naval superiority upon Lake Erie. As I am still apprehensive that we may fail in that desirable object, the Horses will be kept as they are until your further order is received.

The construction which is put upon the last law raising the pay of the Troops excludes the volunteers which were in service before the 31st of December last from its benefits. Nothing could be more galling to the feelings of this small but patriotic and gallant band than such a distinction. A company or troop of this description are in the same camp with one of Regulars and one of Militia. The former enlisted at the same time with the volunteers and perform duty in common with them, yet the services of the regulars are considered as worth three dollars per month more than the volunteers, a comparison with the situation of the Militia is still more odious to the volunteers. The former have been forced into service for six months, the latter have entered voluntarily for twelve—under these circumstances the volunteers will continue to do their duty but I greatly fear that the zeal and ardour for which they were remarkable will be found to have greatly abated if not entirely fled.

I have the honor to be with great respect Yr. Hb. Servt

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble JOHN ARMSTRONG, *Secretary of War*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

Head Quarters CINCINNATI 28th March 1813

Har. Pa. 977-982

Private.

SIR:

I have thought it my duty to enclose you a Letter just received from Govr. Shelby. [see March 27, above] I am well convinced that the sentiments it contains are common to the whole western country, and that they will not only affect calls for militia, which the Governor may make both as to the numbers and quality of the men, but will have great and unfriendly influence upon the recruiting of the 12 months Regulars. In the belief that the government is about to employ a smaller

force against Canada than that of the enemy would justify in raising the contemplated Regiments we shall have not only to contend with the clamor of the usual opposers of the administration, but the tenderness of parents and even a false patriotism itself will be strenuously exerted, to prevent the youth of the country from going into what is termed certain destruction. It is impossible that the impolicy of relying upon Militia, for the prosecution of the war, can be more strongly impressed upon the mind of any person than it is upon mine. If I had had two thousand regular troops, after the defeat of Genl. Winchester instead of four thousand Militia we should at this moment have been in possession of Malden and the fleet of the enemy. But Militia can only be employed with effect, to accomplish a single distinct object, which will require little time and not much delay, on the way. We last year committed errors, which has cost the nation enormous sums. Thousands of men were hurried to the field before it was recollected that they would require subsistence, ammunition and artillery. We have now everything of this kind in abundance.

The object is distinctly before us there is no necessity for those delays which evaporate the spirit of men, who cannot remain long from their families and which causes such heavy drafts upon the public funds.

We can fix the day when our operations shall commence. Not a moment need be lost. Not a day paid for but what is employed in actual service. I have often stated to the Government that in the invasion of Upper Canada the *actual* force of the enemy will be in an inverted ratio to ours: if we are weak they will be strong, if we are strong their actual strength will diminish, in proportion to the opinion which the Indians may have of the dificulty of resisting us. The present appearances upon our frontier are well calculated to inspire confidence in the hostile Indians. It is decidedly my opinion that the employment of a large force would not only be most certain, but in the end most econnomical. I do not think that the Regular troops contemplated to be raised in the western country can be procured. There is at any rate no other way of getting them than by suffering it to be made public that such a force will be employed as will give universal confidence. I think that authority ought to be given to employ volunteer corps of every description many of them can be procured

which would agree to serve forty or fifty days after their arrival at the Rapids who would care nothing for pay. Let a considerable army advance from the Rapids toward Malden and the Indians who may not have joined the British standard will suspend their operations against our frontiers until they see the result. The command of the Lakes will give facility to our operations, and the expense of the vessels will nearly be paid for by the saving in land transportation. I greatly however fear that the naval superiority upon the upper Lakes will not be obtained and if it is not, what will be our situation unless we are prepared to take the other course. In my official letter I have observed, that if I had the power I would call out the ballance of the Three thousand men which have been organized in Kentucky for the protection of Fort Wayne etc. I will only add that if any disaster happens to any of the posts for the want of troops to protect them, the popularity of the administration in the western country will receive a shock [from] which it will never recover.

Nothing is so painful as to be obliged to denounce an Individual and yet I should not do my duty If I were not to recommend that the accounts of Mr. [Joseph] Wheaton an Asst. Dp. Q. Mr. be most critically examined. He expended thirteen or fourteen thousand dollars in bringing on the part of the artillery and stores from Pittsburgh to U. Sandusky and I cannot conceive how it could cost half the sum

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir Yr. Hb. Svt

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honbl. JOHN ARMSTRONG, Esq. *Secy. of War*

GIBSON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

VINCENNES Marh 31st, 1813

Har. Pa. 271-273

SIR:

Since I last had the honor of addressing you upon the subject of the removal of Fort Knox, I have had the disagreeable mortification of suffering the grossest insult I ever experienced in my life. Understanding that the greater part of the timber necessary for the erection of the Fort, was brought down here, and receiving an intemation that Lieut. Tho. H. Richardson of the U. S. Troops, intended to assume to himself the author-

ity of fixing upon the scite, I informed him by a note in writing that so soon as I was notified by him that the necessary timber was brought to Vincennes I would then fix upon and inform him of the site inclosing him at the same time a Copy of the Honrable the late Secretary of War's letter to me authorizing the removal of Fort Knox to or near this place. But notwithstanding this condescention on my part this young Gentlemen has taken upon himself not only without my consent but contrary to my opinion to commence the building of the Fort and that too in the most disadvantageous and useless place in or adjacent to the whole town.

I presume Sir, that this young man would not have assumed the authority and evinced the barefaced affontery of the erection of the Fort without having previously consulted me had it not been owing to the malicious council of Capt. [Ambrose] Whitlock and a Mr. Butler. I disdain complaining in the general but when a circumstance so malicious and disrespectful as the above and which I am convinced is intended not only as an insult upon myself but the Government I think myself measurable bound to communicate it to you. Whilst upon this subject Sir, permit me to relate another part of Lieut Richardson conduct, one which proves a great degree of weakness or venality. Last fall when Fort Harrison was beseiged by the Indians and Col. [William] Russell had hastily marched for its relief It became necessary to forward provisions not only for the Col.'s forces but also for the Garrison and the Contractor was dispatching a number of waggons under an Escort of one hundred and thirty odd men furnished by me. In a conversation with Mr. Richardson upon the subject of forwarding supplies to fort Harrison I informed him of this circumstance and advised him to take advantage of this opportunity if he had any stores to forward—he promised me he would but suffered the opportunity to slip by and a few days afterwards came to me and informed me that he intended to send off a Mr. Black and his Waggon under and Escort of a Sargeant and twelve men. I disuaded him from the measure observing to him that times were extremely dangerous, the guard very small and that in my opinion they stood a great chance of being cut off. The result proved the correctness of my advice. The Escort were completely defeated with the loss of seven killed and one or two wounded the waggon cut

to pieces and all the public property destroyed by the Indians. Mr. Black (a private citizen of this Territory) yet lying out of deserved remuneration for his losses and services and drove to a suit against this Lieut Richardson which is now depending in our General court. Upon the arrival of Col. Russell here (a few days since) I informed him of the Conduct of Lieut Richardson and Mr. Butler to which the Col. replied he would arrest them provided I would prefer charges against them, to this I answered that I would not, but that I would refer the matter to you. The Indians are extremely troublesome to the citizens upon our frontier. One man has been recently killed and others wounded near Vellonea. another (a W. Huffman) killed a part of his family wounded an a part supposed to be taken prisoners within seven miles of Charles Town. A succinct [account] of which you will find in the inclosed letter [see Mar. 24 above] to which I beg leave to refer you. A barge loaded with supplies for Fort Harrison was the other day attacked by a pretty considerable party of Indians within six miles of the Fort (in ascending) and defeated. One of the hands killed and a number wounded. The boat and ballance of the crew have returned to this place. Today two other boats have been dispatched by Col. Rusell for Fort Harrison under a strong Escort and tomorrow he sends off a party of one hundred and odd Rangers by land for the same place. A part of those rangers are those who have lately tendered me their services of which there is one company from this county (Knox) and one other from Jefferson. By an Act of the last Session of the Legislature of this Territory the Seat of Government is to be removed to Corydon. The Governor and Secretary are by the same law permitted to reside wherever they please in the Territory. I shall reside in Jeffersonville where I shall of course keep my office.

I have the honor to be Sir

Your devoted Humble Servant

JOHN GIBSON

Hon. JOHN ARMSTRONG *Sect. of War*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

HEAD QUARTERS CINCINNATI 30 March 1813

Har. Pa. 983, 984

SIR:

I have just received letters from the Miami Rapids informing me of the determination of the Virginia and Pennsylvania

Militia that are now there, to leave that place the very moment that their time of service expires even if the troops destined to relieve them should not have arrived. The disagreeable circumstances of one of our men having been taken by the enemy will apprize them of the situation of the post and will I fear induce them to undertake some enterprise against it before it can be reinforced. I have determined therefore to set out early tomorrow for Camp Meigs by the way of St. Marys Colo. [John] Miller with about 120 Regulars and 80 militia of the state will I hope be ready to descend the Auglaize the day after tomorrow in boats and will arrive at the Rapids in three days—there are also about 180 of the Ohio militia building boats at Fort Findlay about 44 miles from the Rapids and 150 of these have been ordered to proceed thither immediately.

A company of the Kentucky Militia reached Newport yesterday and others will arrive in a day or two. Having a number of Pack Horses in the neighbourhood I have determined to employ them to expedite the March of a few of those companies by assigning one of them to every two men.

My uneasiness at the situation of Camp Meigs is greatly increased from the state of the weather for some time past which will render Lake Erie navigable much earlier than usual. The Indians have commenced their depredations nearly all round the frontiers. The people are much alarmed. I must take the liberty again of stating my belief that it will be necessary to call out the remaining part of the Militia that have been organized for service in Kentucky and that they be marched in the direction of Fort Wayne advanced of St. Marys where they can be supported easily and when they will overawe the Indian tribes in that quarter and protect our deposits of provisions, as well as cover the Frontiers.

I am with great Respect Sir Yr. Humble Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble. The Secretary of War

TIPTON TO GIBSON

April, [1?] 1813

Cockrum, *Pioneer History Indiana, 372*

Since I have had command of the militia on the borders of Harrison and Clark counties, the Indians have caused us much

trouble and murdered a number of citizens on the frontiers of these counties, all of which I have reported to Colonel [Robert] Evans; but in order that you may understand the situation, I have directed this letter to you.

On the 18th of March one man was killed and three others wounded near this place (Valonia). [see March 24 above] At that time I was not there. On my arrival I took twenty-nine men and went up to Drift river, twenty-five miles, and here found a party of Indians on an island in the river. In a skirmish of twenty minutes, I defeated them, killed one and saw others sink in the river, and I believe if any made their escape by swimming, they lost their guns. I lost no men. [See Apr 12, 1814 below]

On the sixteenth inst. two men were killed and one wounded southwest eight miles of this place and a number of horses were stolen. I immediately took thirty men and followed them three days. We had five large creeks to raft and many to wade and every day rain fell. The third day I directed my spies to march slowly. The Indians' horses were showing evidences of fatigue, and I thought it best not to overtake them until night; but contrary to my orders, they came up with one Indian who had stopped to fix his pack and fired at him. The other Indians were but a little in advance and they all left their horses and plunder. The ground being hilly, we could not overtake them. Had it not been for my orders being disobeyed, I would have been able to have killed or captured them in their camp that night. As they went out they passed Salt creek and there took an old trail directly for Delaware town, and it is my opinion that while the government was supporting one part of that tribe, the others were murdering our citizens. It is much to be desired that these rascals, of whatever tribe they may be harbouring about their town, should be routed. This could be done with one hundred mounted men in seven days.

If there is not an effective measure taken to guard this place, all of Clark and Harrison Counties will break. It is rumored here that when the rangers come out, the militia will be dismissed. If so, our case is a dangerous one, as it is hard for mounted men to range through the swamps and backwaters of Driftwood and Muscackituck rivers, as they have been for most of the season more than a mile wide, by reason

of low, marshy bottoms which overflow, and many times three and four miles wide. The Indians come in and secrete themselves in some high ground surrounded by water and by the help of bark canoes, come in and do mischief and until I came out, never could be found. Since I came they have made two attempts to take off the horses. The first time, on the 12th inst., I took all their horses but one. The last time I took all and still followed them with footmen. The last time we lived three days on a little venison, without bread or salt, and I believe if there are to be rangers, there should be spies of young and hardey footmen, who can lay and scout through the swamps and thickets as the Indians do; then we will be secure, not else. I have been constantly out for the last eight days on foot, wading and rafting the creeks. I have seen many signs of Indians, such as camps where they have lain, and killed hogs and cattle to live on, and many canoes to approach our settlements, and I am conscious if you had not ordered out the additional company and made those excellent arrangements of the ninth of February, [see Feb 9 and 17 above] all of this frontier would have been murdered ere now. The citizens are living between hope and despair, wating to know their doom.

[JOHN TIPTON]

RECRUITING IN KENTUCKY

GEORGETOWN (KY.) April 1. 1813

Niles' Register IV, 116

MOUNTED REGIMENT: The most flattering accounts are received from various quarters that the mounted regiment (to be commanded by R. M. Johnson) is rapidly filling its ranks. This suits Kentuckians. In the old war, they were all carried to the enemy on horseback. They are prejudiced in favor of a corps of this description. All seem to be aroused—men above 45, and boys under 18 years of age, are volunteering, anxious for an opportunity to avenge the blood of their slaughtered friends.

Capt. [William] Dudley,[1] of Frankfort, passed through this place, on Tuesday night, with 122 as respectable, as brave and as fine volunteers, as any country ever produced, destined for

1. William Dudley was a native of Spottsylvania Co., Va., but was then living in Fayette Co., Ky. He was killed at Fort Meigs.

the Rapids. We will venture to assert, that captain Dudley and his patriot band will give a good account of themselves when attacked by the enemy, they will leave their mark.

LEXINGTON, March 30. Yesterday Col. Dudley's regiment of Kentucky volunteers was paraded in this town, and are expected to march in a few days on Newport.

The men appear to be cheerful and animated and inspired with the purest feelings of patriotism. With pride we mention that several who served on the last campaign have again volunteered their services.

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT April 3rd, 1813

Har. Pa. 64-66

SIR:

Your dispatch of the 17th ultimo [see Mar. 17 above] from Chilicothe has been received and I hasten to repeat to you the views of the President in relation to the next campaign and the injunctions growing out of these, with regard to the employment of Militia.

Our first object is to get a command of the lakes. Means to accomplish this object have been taken, and we have the fullest assurance that by the 1st day of June it will be accomplished.

This fact assured, there can be no longer a doubt by what means or by what Route, the Division of the Army assigned to you, ought to approach Malden. A passage by water will carry you directly to the Fortress you would attack without impairing your strength by fatigue, or diminishing it by battle. A passage by land will on the other hand call for great efforts and expose you to great losses, which if they do not destroy, will at least cripple you. The former will be easy, safe and economical, the latter difficult, dangerous and enormously expensive.

On the other supposition, that we fail to obtain the command of the Lake, a new question will arise—whether the campaign shall take an offensive or defensive character? Be this question determined as it may, the utmost extent which will be given to the force employed, will be seven thousand effectives.

Various reasons determine this point. The enemy have

never had in the field for the defence of Malden more than two thousand men. Their number has no doubt been hitherto limited by their means of subsistence and this cause is not likely to suffer any very material change in their favor, during the ensuing campaign. More than seven thousand men therefore would be unnecessary on our part. Again, to maintain a greater number would be impracticable, in the present state of the Treasury.

It now remains only to signify to you clearly and distinctly the kind of force the Government mean hereafter to employ in offensive operations, if it can be obtained.

When the Legislature at their last session adopted the measure of augmenting the Army to fifty-two Regiments of the Line, it was expressly in the view of superseding hereafter the necessity of employing militia, excepting in moments of actual invasion. In obedience to this policy the President assigned to the 8th military District of the United States, four of these new Regiments, which if filled, and super-added to the two Regiments of the line now in that District, and the 24th in march for it, will give a total of seven regiments or seven thousand men. This number forbids the belief, that any employment of Militia drafts will be necessary, when it shall have been collected. Till however this be done, or at least till time be given for the experiment, so many militia only are to be called out as shall be necessary for the *defense* of your posts on the Miami and of your depots of provision on the Lake. and should the recruiting service go on less fortunately in the patriotic states of Kentucky and Ohio than in other parts of the Union, you are in that case, and in that case only, authorized to call out as *many militia drafts, as will make good the deficiency*—and organizing these under the rules already prescribed, await the farther orders of the President in your camp at the Rapids.

To these orders I have to add that you will regard it as your duty to keep this Department regularly and frequently informed of the actual condition of the Troops under your command as well in regard to equipment and supplies of provision and ammunition as to numbers, discipline and health and that your weekly and monthly reports shall include also the state of the Ordnance and Quarter Master's Departments, noting particularly the number of Horses and oxen employed

by both. You will readily perceive the necessity for giving this order, when I state that no return of any description from your Division of the Army has ever been received at the Adjutant General's Office. Your proportion of the new staff has been given to you. Captain [Nathaniel F.] Adams has been appointed Assist. Adjutant General, and Mr. [John C.] Bartlett Deputy Qr. Master General of your division. The Brigadier Generals [Duncan] McArthur and [Lewis] Cass are employed in superintending the Recruiting Service. A letter from the latter gives reason to believe that this will go on well in the State of Ohio.

Major General HARRISON

SHELBY TO HARRISON

Apl. 4th, 1813

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book A", 75

DR SIR:

I received two letters [see Mar. 22 above] yesterday from Governor Edwards of Illinois, the information they contained being of the most serious and alarming nature. I do myself the honour to enclose herewith copies of them, to apprise you of the strides which are making by the British evidently with a view to future conquest.

You are no doubt well aware of the importance which the Post at Prairie Duchim will give to their arms as it respects the numerous tribes of savages to the west of the Mississippi who heretofore have felt but little inducements to enter into the war on either side.

It is a misfortune that the representation of Gov. Edwards made last year have not been duly appreciated, It will now require ten times the force that might have established a post by our Government at Prairie Duchin & thereby have broken that chain of water communication from the Lakes to the western ocean, which I fear we shall not be able to wrest from the enemy, and they know too well the great value of the Territory to the north of it to surrender it to us on a General Peace without a concession on our part of more value to them.

I saw one of the Regiments of the Lake brigade which marched from this State to join you—except two companies, great part of them too men under size and in other respects hardly Kentuckians. You must have a different kind of troops

to meet the enemy on the field, but while an opinion is entertained in Kentucky that the Government is going on in too small a scale to meet the enemy, the better kind of people who are able to send a substitute will not go themselves to fight a battle which promises nothing but defeat and disgrace, and unless you shall have a discretion to call out a force which you may deem sufficient and of every description of Troops sufficient by their numbers to insure success, you need hardly expect a man from Kentucky upon any future draft who is able to send a substitute in his room and of all others an army of raw substitutes are least proper to meet an enemy of well disciplined troops flanked by strong bodies of Indians. The defeat of St. Clair and many others I Could mention will justify this opinion. I wish my voice could reach the ear of our good President and induce him to call General Wilkinson to the command of our North Eastern Army, his talents and experience would open a seam both in the field and in the war department of a different aspect from what has yet been conceived by any one before him.

With, &c.,

ISSAC SHELBY

To General WM. H. HARRISON

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT April 8th 1813

Har. Pa. 60

SIR:

I have received the two letters you did me the honor to write to me on the 27th and 28th ult. [see above] In a former letter you had stated that a number of Boats were building under your direction. I send you the inclosed extract from a letter written by Major [Thomas Sidney] Jessup of the 19th Regt. now at Cleveland. If the number he has contracted for be more than will be wanted, (calculating those you are building at other points) you will be pleased to give him that information, in time to enable him to lessen the number.

Some portion of your last requisition upon the Ohio militia, ought to be placed at those points on the Southern shore of the Lake, which will be most likely to invite the attacks of the Enemy.

Major General WM. H. HARRISON.

HARRISON TO GOV. SHELBY

Head Quarters FORT AMANDA on the AUGLAISE River
9th April 4 o'clock A. M. [1813]

(Duplicate)

Har. Pa. 993-995

DEAR SIR:

Altho I have reason to believe that the power formerly given to me to call upon the Executive of the adjacent states and Territories for Detachments of Militia is considered by the Secretary of War as being annuled yet such is my view of the critical situation of our affairs in the country that I am induced to request your Excellency to take such measures as you may judge most effectual and speedy to send me a reinforcement of at least fifteen hundred men. The season is scarcely sufficiently advanced to afford wild food for horses but as we have a considerable quantity of forage at some of the advanced posts I must request you to dispatch immediately the Regt. of Mounted Riflemen commanded by the Honble. R. M. Johnson or such part of it as may be raised without waiting for the infantry. Should the Government not think proper to authorize the employment of the latter you will receive notice of it before they can have arrived at the General Rendezvous as I have already written on the subject and I am persuaded that neither your Excellency nor the officers and men who may be called out will regret the trouble you will have on this occasion should it even prove ultimately to produce no advantage.

From the information received yesterday it is very evident that the enemy intended to attack the post at the Miami Rapids They have been apprised of the reduced state of the troops there and calculate upon an easy conquest. I have been obliged to dispatch for its protection the Squadron of Dragoons and have now with me about 300 men which is all that I could possibly take from the protection of the posts on this line. Indeed one of them is left to the protection of the Friendly Indians with only a sergeant and 3 men of ours. I shall embark in one hour in a boat and perogues and calculate on reaching the Rapids tomorrow night. I am informed by Major [Amos] Stoddard who commands at Camp Meigs that the Indians are in force on the Rivers between Fort Winchester and the former.

Without a very considerable addition to my present force it will be impossible to defend the extensive line of weak posts on the frontier and maintain that at the Rapids. The enemy have a single point only to defend, their forces are concentrated, they command the lake & can take their troops to any point they think proper to attack with a great facility. Our movements on the contrary are necessarily laborious and tardy & not knowing on which of our numerous and vulnerable points the storm is to fall it is necessary upon every military principle that our force should be treble theirs; at present it is inferior.

I have the honor to be with great Respect Sir Yr. Obt.
& Hbl. Servt.

(Signed) W. H. HARRISON

His Excellency ISAAC SHELBY, Esqr. *Governor of Kentucky*

True Copy L. HUKILLS, *A. D. Camp*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 49.)

Head Quarters N. W. Army CAMP MEIGS (Miami Rapids)
[About April 15, 1813]

Har. Pa. 985-988

SIR:

I arrived here on the morning of the 12th Inst. [April] having decended the Auglaize and Miami Rivers with all the Troops that I darst take from the Forts in that direction. Major [Amos] Stoddard who commanded here for some days previously to my arrival informed me that he had communicated to the Adt. General some recent information he had received respecting the designs of the enemy upon this post. I have no reason to doubt the correctness of the accounts he had received, indeed they are corroborated by a number of circumstances.

I found on my arrival here that Genl. Leftwitch had done little or nothing towards completing the defences of the post. Major Stoddard had however employed himself very actively after the command had devolved upon him and since my arrival the whole of the troops have been engaged in finishing the old works and erecting new ones. Amongst the latter are an earthern Parapet (nearly completed) round the whole

Camp and several new Sod Batteries in addition to those which were laid down in the plan which I had the honor to forward. A Grand Traverse across the whole Camp and a few additional counter Guards will render all the efforts of the enemy unavailing. I pledge myself to defend it to the last extremity. Today or tomorrow I shall be reinforced by a part of the Kentucky Troops. The whole must be considerably advanced and will shortly join me. As the enemy are known to have several parties of Indians out for the purpose of intercepting the mail and may very probably suceed altho it is guarded by a detachment of dragoons I shall wait for a safer opportunity which will occur in a few days to communicate some further information. When the Law for raising 12 months volunteers was in force I authorized McFarland to raise a company of Artillery having been furnished with blank commissions for that purpose. He had recruited thirty men before the law was repealed and having expended a good deal of money and manifested much zeal for the service I promised him a Captaincy in one of the new Regiments. I shall be gratified to have this promise fulfilled. I believe him to be worthy of the appointment.

I have received no letter from you later than the 17th ultimo.

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir Yr. Ob. Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble JOHN ARMSTRONG, Esq. *Secy. of War.*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 50)

Head Quarters CAMP MEIGS 17th April 1813

Har. Pa. 989-992

SIR:

I must beg you to believe that I would not disobey any order of yours unless I was sure that my doing so would meet your approbation when you should be informed of all the circumstances that produced such disobedience. Nothing can be more proper than the regulations contained in your letter of the—[13?] ulto. on the subject of calling out the Militia and Yet such was my view of the critical situation of our affairs in this quarter that I have been obliged to accept of companies from the State of Ohio that do not contain more than forty men. Indeed there is scarcely one with more than half the comple-

ment. As soon however as I can get them together and consult Govr. Meigs they shall be consolidated. I have the honor to enclose a copy of my letter to Gov. Shelby of the 9th Inst. [see above] Having written to you before on the subject of calling out those Troops There will be time enough to instruct the Governor should it be determined that they are not to be employed before they can be put in motion.

The enemy have not yet made their appearance but from the information received through the Wyandotts of Sandusky they are collecting a large force for the attack of this or some other of our posts.

John S. Wills Esq. Judge Advocate to the Army will set out tomorrow for Franklinton. I have mentioned some particulars to him which I did not wish to commit to paper and he will have the honor to communicate them by letter from that place or Upper Sandusky.

When I arrived here I was informed by Major [Amos] Stoddard that he had written to the Ajdt. Genl. and given him all the intelligence which he had received of the Movements and intentions of the enemy. I have since learnt however that he forgot to mention that the British had lately launched at Malden a vessel carrying Eighteen guns which was completely equipped and ready for a voyage and that another of the same size was nearly ready to be launched.

The difficulty of procuring proper persons for scouts (spies they are called in the western country) and the very exorbitant price which they demand has made it necessary to employ some of the friendly Indians for that purpose. I have now with me about Thirty and have promised them fifty cents per day. Altho there is no Law authorizing this I intended to pay them out of the fund which Government has always put at my disposal for extra presents and which yearly amounts to a much larger sum than will be given them. The Agent Mr. [John] Johnson will have directions to draw for their compensation in this way. If there were no other reasons for the employment of the friendly Indians the confidence in their fidelity which it gives to our own people upon the frontiers makes it absolutely necessary. I have been under very great apprehensions that some scoundrels in the neighborhood of Piqua would fall upon the Delawares.

A few of our people and Twenty Indians are now out in the

direction of the River Raisin for the purpose of taking a prisoner to gain information.

I have the honor to be with great respect Yr. Ob. Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble JOHN ARMSTRONG, Esq. *Secy. of War.*

SHELBY TO HARRISON

April 18th, 1813

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book A", 96

DR SIR:

On the 15th inst., while at my farm in Lincoln, I had the honour of receiving your letter of the 9th inst., [see above] making a requisition on me for a reinforcement of at least fifteen hundred men and desiring in particular the Regiments of mounted men commanded by R. M. Johnson, Esq.

I immediately started for this place which I reached in the course of the next day and that afternoon issued orders for the rendezvous at George Town on the 2nd day of May of the two remaining regiments of the detached militia of this State, to march from thence without delay to your Head Quarters.

These Regiments having been raised under a Law which vests me with the discretionary power of ordering them in the service whenever the exigiencies of the War might in my opinion require, I felt no difficulty in ordering them out under the critical posture of our affairs in your quarters as represented in your letter—Having a confidence however that the measure would be sanctioned by the president of the United States or if not that I should receive notice of his disapprobation in time to stop their march before they left the limits of the State—

I have received no communications from the president of the U. S. nor from the Secy. at War, relative to the authority, said to be given to Mr. Johnson to raise a Regiment of mounted Infantry, newspaper publication is all I have seen on that Subject—

I do not know what law that Regt. is said to be raised under, nor its object. And I have no reason to believe that it is organized. Indeed the State Constitution forbids the appointment of a member of Congress to any office of Trust or Profit under its authority—The Federal Constitution is equally cau-

tious as to their holding any office under the General Government.

Under existing circumstances I could therefore take no notice of the mounted Riflemen.

I flatter myself that with the forces under your command you will be able to maintain your ground against any force that the enemy can bring against you, until you are reinforced so as to enable you to commence Offensive measures.

I am Dr Sir &c.,

ISAAC SHELBY.

To General HARRISON

P. S. You have said nothing to me in your letter about an assurance of pay to the men ordered to your assistance. It will certainly be expected, and it is much to be wished that they may receive it, Should this reach you in time I hope you will give orders that at least one month's pay be advanced to them before they leave Cincinnati. I. S.

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT April 18th 1813

Har. Pa. 67

SIR:

Enclosed is an order recalling Brig. General [Duncan] McArthur to the discharge of the duties to which he had been specially assigned by this Department.

Letters from Fort Meigs of the 9th Instant have been received from Major [Amos] Stoddard. The enemy's parties besetting the approaches to the fort have been small and might have been chastised had the Detachments sent in pursuit of them been larger. When your whole force is collected, it would be desirable that Colonel Proctor should make an attempt to dislodge or to invest you. He can neither bring into the field nor keep in it more than two thousand effectives. The regular force sent to him from the Niagara and arriving after his defeat of General Winchester, did not exceed the number he lost in that affair. His field train consists of six or eight six pounders.

Major General HARRISON

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 51)

Head Quarters CAMP MEIGS 21st April 1813

Har. Pa. 998-1007

SIR:

I had the honor last evening to receive your favor of the 4th [3d] Inst. The party which was sent to the River Raisin returned with three Frenchmen from that settlement. The information given by the latter is that the enemy are still urging on their preparations for the attack of this place. The transports for the troops and Artillery were preparing. The Prophet and his Brother had arrived at the River Raisin with a reinforcement of Indian Warriors and a still larger was expected on the day after from the south side of Lake Michigan. Three Artillery officers had been sent to fix on the sites for their Batteries on the Bank of the River opposite to this place. The Prisoners captured on the 7th Inst. had been taken in and had informed the enemy of the strength of this post. But a salute which had been fired upon my arrival here was heard—the intention known and a belief entertained that I had brought a large reinforcement. The Indians began to waver. Their employers were stimulating them by every means in their power. To the Prophet and his followers assurances were given that the Michigan Territory should be theirs. The Indians objected to the plan of attack proposed by the British which was to detach the Militia and the Indians to intercept our retreat whilst the Regular Troops were employed in annoying us from the opposite side of the River. The attack on this post would now be desirable and I only fear that they may abandon the Idea for one more easily executed. My fears for the safety of Fort Wayne are removed for the present, as all the accounts agree as to the point of the exertions making by the enemy to draw to Malden every Indian from the country between the Wabash and Lake Michigan.

The plan for future operations as laid down in your letter of the 4th [3d] is no doubt the best that could have been devised in the event of the promised naval success and a prosperous issue to the Recruiting business. My measures will therefore be entirely directed to the prosecution of the campaign in that way.

There is nothing to be feared as to the ulterior operations of the campaign. But all my apprehentions are awake for the

present moment. To you Sir, it is unnecessary to say that it requires a larger force to defend a line of frontier as extensive as ours is than to carry on offensive operations against an enemy whose force is concentrated and who possesses the power of attacking any point they please. I had much rather when joined by Genl. [Green] Clay with the Kentucky troops advance upon Detroit than attempt to defend our long lines of weak posts. The Point mentioned in the address to you from certain citizens of this state is no doubt very much exposed but it is not more so than others that are more important.

I shall however attend to it as soon as possible The position which I occupy here certainly possesses more advantages than any other that could have been taken, and yet such is the adverse nature of this country, for Military operations, that had I a disposable force of some thousands, the enemy could turn my right by landing at Sandusky and operate against the Forts there with impunity. It is now raining as it has been for two days and the Swamps which run parallel to this River throughout its whole extent must in a few hours be absolutely impassable to Infantry. I shall cause the movements of the enemy to be narrowly watched. But in the event of their landing at Lower Sandusky that post cannot be saved. I will direct it in such an event to be evacuated. The stores there are not of much consequence excepting about 500 stand of arms which I will cause to be removed as soon as the roads are practicable; at present it is impossible.

Before I left Cincinnati I was informed by a Letter from Genl. Leftwitch that the Pensylvania and Virginia Militia would remain here, until other troops should arrive, upon no condition but that of receiving their arrears of pay before their departure. I accordingly dispatched my Aid de Camp Lieut. [Levi] Hukill with directions to assure them that their wishes should be complied with, and I directed Mr. [Jesse] Hunt Paymaster to send on Twenty thousand dollars to this place to be delivered to Colo. [Samuel] Huntingdon whom I was in hopes would be found here on the arrival of Mr. Hukill the greater part of the Militia were gone about two hundred Pennsylvanians however volunteered their services to remain for fifteen days and upon my arrival here they demanded a fulfillment of the promise. Col. Huntingdon was not here,

and from the circumstance of a part of the detachment being made up of small fragments of Companies, there was great difficulty in adjusting their accounts. The money was however placed in the hands of Lt. [David] Gwynne Pay Master to the 19th Regt. U. S. Infy. by whose exertions and knowledge of accounts the payment has been made in such a manner as to insure justice to the public and individuals altho it will no doubt cause a little more trouble at the Genl. Pay office. Lt. Gwynne will send to the pay Master Genl. one of the triplicate setts of Receipt Rolls which were taken, with an explanation of the whole proceedure. You will I am persuaded Sir not regret any additional trouble which this affair may cause in your Department when you reflect upon the necessity of most scrupulously fulfilling every engagement made between the agents of the Government and Militia placed in the situation that these were to whom the promise of payment was made.

I am convinced the Adjutant Genl. is mistaken in saying that no returns have been forwarded from this army. From October until January every exertion was made to get the Militia Corps of which it was composed to make regular and formal returns. They were generally received but so incorrect that nothing could be made from them.

In the last mentioned month however a General Return was completed and forwarded by Capt. [Nathaniel] Adams and since that another. Capt. Adams was left by me at Cincinnati at his request to make up his accounts as pay master to the 4th Regt. He is now ordered on and will resume his functions upon his arrival. The orders contained in your letter of the 4th shall be observed in future as far as is practicable. But You Sir who have been accustomed to see Militia officers who could at least read and write can have no Idea of the ignorance of many of those even of considerable Rank in the western country. [see Nov. 18, 1812 as a sample] A field officer of the Ohio Troops to whom I gave a day or two ago a form of his report as officer of the day acknowledged to me that he was unable to fill it up. From the Quarter Master Department more regularity and more economy may be expected. The faults in that Department have arisen from two sources viz. the creation of two independent heads and the necessity of employing a vast number of subordinate agents

whose characters could not be ascertained. From the latter cause notwithstanding the abilities of Colo. [James] Morrison, and the high integrity of both him and Captain [John H.] Piatt I do not believe that there has been more fraud and peculation practiced upon the public in this quarter since last fall than in any other army, that was ever found. With some few exceptions, it has I believe been principally confined to Pack Horse Masters and Waggon Masters.

I had one of the latter confined at Chilicothe for selling public oxen and stealing others. The officers who were to have composed the court to try him were obliged to come off to the army and the fellow has since been released by the civil authority. I gave you the name of a higher officer in a private letter who is looked upon with more than suspicion; it is believed that he has at least $10,000 of the public money in his possession. Could I have this to spend a short time in the interior where these enormities have been committed I would endeavor to bring some of these scoundrels to punishment. From the number of posts in which valuable public property is deposited there requires a very considerable number of subordinate Q Masters. All these posts (one only excepted) have militia garrisons whose commanders seldom have the firmness and inclination to control their men. It is necessary that there should be in each of them a Quarter Master or agent. Young men of character might be got for from Thirty to Forty Dolls. per month. The Quarter Masters under the old law have been necessarily continued untill they can be replaced by the new appoinments. I have heard not a word from the 24th Regiment. Pursuing the plan laid down in your letter of the 4th [3d] I can see no advantage in the point of embarkation mentioned in a former letter. The Miami Bay or Sandusky would be infinitely preferable. The other place possesses no advantage which these do not afford they are nearer our deposits and the marching of the Troops from this direction to the other place would point out the intention to the enemy. I will thank you to inform me whether any alteration will be made, in this respect as soon as convenient, as it will govern me in the orders to be given for the March of the 24th Regt. Nothing, I presume, can be expected from me as to the provision of transports. In the proposed direction, open boats will not answer.

No person is mentioned in your letter of the 4th [3d] for the Inspectors Department. I had always intended to recommend for it Lieut. [Levi] Hukill my Aid de Camp who is better qualified for it than any person I know of and I sincerely believe better than any other Plattoon officer in the army. I have the honor to enclose herewith an extract of a letter [see Mar. 27 above] from Govr. Shelby on the subject of the employment of Indian auxiliaries. His sentiments on the subject are precisely mine.

I have the honor to be with great Respect Yr. Ob. Svt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble JOHN ARMSTRONG, Esq. *Secy. of War.*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 52)

Head Quarters CAMP MEIGS 25th April 1813

Har. Pa. 1-3

SIR:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th Inst. [see above] The directions given by me to the Q. Mr. on the St. Marys last winter were to prepare a number of boats of that kind which were calculated, as well for coasting the lake as for descending the rivers. From the difficulty of procuring workmen five only of that description were built, perouges and flats being substituted for them. Your suggestion with regard to the disposition of the Ohio Militia shall be attended to. If the enemy do not commence offensive operations soon I shall be able to dismiss a considerable proportion of them and you may rely upon my doing it at the moment at which I think their services can be spared.

In your favor of the 4th [3d] Inst. you observe that my proportion of the staff has been assigned to me but the names of none of them are given but those of majors [Nathaniel] Adams and [John C.] Bartlett I must beg leave to observe that in my opinion this army will require a more numerous staff than any other because it will consist almost exclusively of raw troops and inexperienced officers. For this reason I have ventured to detain Major [Levi] Hukill until your further determination shall be known, my having done so will not offend General [Wade] Hampton. He is personally the friend of the Major who was some time in his family and has

written to him that it is not his wish that he should abandon any situation in this army for the one which would be offered him in his staff should he prefer the former.

The following circumstance will then shew the importance of Major Hukills services to me at present. The labour on the defences of the Camp being pretty well gotten over a General order was issued for placing the whole of the Troops off duty on Drill for several hours each day. But amongst all the officers under my command of every grade I am persuaded there is not an individual, Majors Adams and Hukill excepted (& perhaps Lt. Col. [Edmund Pendleton] Gains of the 24th whom I do not know) who are capable of properly directing a drill or manoeuvring a Battalion. I should prefer Major Hukill to any other person as the Inspector of this army.

I have the honor to enclose herewith a rough sketch representing the situation of the posts in this quarter and a more correct view of the Islands in Lake Erie than any printed map furnishes. In the group called Bass Islands there is one of the finest harbours in the world. It is the Bay formed by an indenture in Edwards Islands and nearly shut up by another Island this harbour as the Frenchman lately brought from the River Raisin informs me the British are about Fortifying. It is said to be eminently calculated for defence. The shore which commands the Harbour being high and a rock.

I have the honor to be with great Respect Yr. Ob. Svt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

P. S. When I was appointed to the command of the N. W. Army the secretary of war informed me that the President would confirm any staff appointments that I might make which were allowed by law amongst others I appointed John S. Wills Esq. *Divis J. Advocate* he has performed the duties faithfully but his appointment has not yet been confirmed. I shall be gratified by having it forwarded. The officers of the 17th and 19th Reg. U. S. Infy. are anxious to know whether their Regimental and lineal Rank has been determined.

W. H. H.

Honb. JOHN ARMSTRONG, Esqr. *Secy. of War.*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT April 27th 1813

Har. Pa. 68

SIR:

On looking back on the correspondence between this Department and yourself, it is perceived that under the unexpected and alarming circumstances of General Hull's surrender, a great effort was deemed necessary on the part of the Government to accomplish, if possible, the objects assigned to that officer, and at least to regain what of honor and of territory had been lost. In this view it was thought proper to give to you a carte blanche on the resources of the country, both as to men and money. The late and present admonitions of the Treasury make it inexpedient to continue to this authority its original latitude. The whole military expenditure of the United States cannot exceed one million four hundred thousand Dollars per month. As therefore in a former letter your authority to draw out militia was restricted to the defence of Fort Meigs its dependant posts and your depots of provision on Lake Erie, so in this it becomes necessary to put that of drawing, or of authorizing others to draw bills upon this Department under the following rules, viz. 1. Bills shall not be drawn at a sight.

Major Genl. HARRISON.

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT April 28th 1813

Har. Pa. 68

SIR:

I did propose doing myself the honor of writing to you at some length but as the post hour presses, I am constrained to refer you to the copy of a letter written to B. Genl. [Lewis] Cass, as containing some portion of the views intended for you.

I beg you to accept the assurance of my great respect.

Major Genl. HARRISON.

HARRISON TO MEIGS

Head Quarters CAMP MEIGS 28th Apl. 1813

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book B" 23

DR SIR:

The enemy are determined to put their threats in execution

their columns are now in sight and their Gun Boats with their artillery &c about two miles from us and the woods on both sides of the river are full of Indians. I send this by a confidential person, Mr. [William] Oliver, who will take it on as far as he thinks proper.

Be pleased to write immediately to the Governor of Kentucky—my men are in fine spirits, do not my dear sir doubt the results—the enemy little dream of the bitter pill I have prepared for them. In a little time I hope to be able to inform you of their complete discomfiture. The additional men whom you have ordered out were very acceptable.

Yours truly

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

His Excellency Govr. MEIGS

MYERS TO PROCTOR

April 28, 1813

Dawson, *Harrison, 381*

We look with confident hope for the report of your success —and brigadier-general Vincent, (who is here, and by whose directions I am writing to you,) has desired me to impress upon you, what essential aid could be rendered to us by the timely arrival here of five hundred Indians; should you have secured Harrison's army, it is the brigadeir-general's desire, and in which I most earnestly join, that you forward to us in the king's vessels to Point Abino, that number with as great expedition as possible. In the event of your having captured Harrison's army, you will see the impossibility under existing circumstances of our taking charge of them here, and therefore brigadier-general Vincent requests you will make the best arrangements in your power to dispose of them, either by securing them at one or the other of your own posts, or passing them on parole into the United States by way of Cleveland or other routes, as you may find expedient; the latter line of conduct is perhaps the most preferable, on account of the state of your supplies of provisions.

Sincerely wishing every success, and hoping to send you, and receive from you, good accounts, I have the honor to be, etc.

CHRISTO MYERS, *Col. Act. Q. M. G.*

Brig. Gen. PROCTOR

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 53)

Head Quarters CAMP MEIGS 28th Apl. 1813

Har. Pa. 4

The columns of the enemy are now in sight; an officer has just reconoitered them who thinks they amount to between two and three thousand the gunboats bearing their artillery &c. are about two miles from us at this moment and the Indians are in swarms through the woods on each side of the River. My men are in fine spirits and we shall soon put them upon a retrograde march. I had a confidential person Mr. [William] Oliver with a few attendants upon fleet horses to carry this to the settlements.[1]

I have the honor to be with great respect Yr. Obt. Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honb. JOHN ARMSTRONG, Esqr. *Secy. of War.*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT May 4th 1813.

Har. Pa. 69

SIR:

Your dispatch of the 17th ult. [see above] covering the copy of one from you to Governor Shelby of the 9th [see above] has been received.

The theory of this new rule with regard to the service of militia is to make the law operate on individuals not on collective bodies of any description. So long as we call for companies, regiments and brigades we are sure to have a plentiful

CHILICOTHE, May 5, 1813

1. An express has this moment reached town, bearing despatches from governor Meigs at Franklinton to brigadier-general M'Arthur now at this place. The governor states that he has just received an express from general Harrison, stating that Fort Meigs is under close seige, surrounded by about 3000 British and Indians, which cuts off all intercourse between him and the frontiers, and requests immediate assistance from this state to open the communication; in consequence of which the light companies, and all the mounted volunteers who can possibly be raised, are to march immediately for the Rapids. The drums are now beating to arms; and no doubt need be entertained but that the "backwoodsmen" will do their duty. Clay, with 1500 Kentuckians, is now at Portage river, 18 miles from the Rapids. It is hoped he will not attempt to go through until reinforced. It is thought that Harrison's effective forces does not exceed 1500 men; yet with this number in a strong garrison, well supplied with provisions, ammunition, and cannon, there is little fear of his sustaining a defeat.

P. S. It is about two hours since the express came in; a respectable company is raised and will march in the morning. Ohio is true.

Niles' Register, IV, 178

lack of privates and a great superabundance of officers. If on the other hand we call for individuals we either get them or we do not. In the first case, there is no evil to remedy, in the last the remedy is to do what you propose, to embody the privates and send home the surplus officers. It is by pursuing this plan that we shall avoid imposition, that the state shall be credited with the effective force she gives, that the Union shall be debited with what she has actually received, and that the commands of Generals shall not be nominal only. Governor Meigs cannot but meet you half way in conforming to arrangements productive of effects like these.

You will have seen in my last communication my opinion respecting the probability of an attack on your post.

Major General [Henry] Dearborn sailed from Sackett's harbor on the 23d ult his objects are the destruction of the enemy's naval force at York, (2 frigates) and the taking of forts George and Erie on the Niagara.

Major General HARRISON FT. MEIGS

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

Head Quarters Camp Meigs 5th May 1813

Har. Pa. 5-9

SIR:

I am sorry to inform you of another disaster to the Kentucky troops not indeed bearing any comparison to that of the River Raisin in point of killed and wounded but exceeding it as to the number of prisoners. I had the honor to inform you in my letter of the 28th Inst. [see above] that the British Troops destined to beseige this place was then in view. On the succeeding night they broke ground upon the heights opposite and on the following morning our batteries opened upon them and continued a partial firing throughout that and the following day. On the first of May the enemy returned it from two guns and one mortar battery and on the 2nd from a third Gun Battery. On the night of the 3d they passed a part of their troops to this side of the River and opened another gun and mortar battery within two hundred and fifty yards of our lines. They were soon however driven from that position and obliged to take one at a more respectful distance. On the 1st, 2nd, and 3d Inst. the fire was most in-

sistant and tremendous 5½ and 8½ inch shells with 24 lb. ball fell in showers in our camp and would have produced the most unfortunate effect but from the great pains and labour which had been bestowed in the erection of Traverses which in a great degree shielded our Camp from the former. For the latter there was no prevention but that of taking the Batteries. About 12 o'clock last night an officer arrived in a boat from Genl. [Green] Clay to inform me of his approach and that he would reach this place in about 2 hours. I immediately determined upon a general sally and sent an officer to Genl. Clay directing him to land eight hundred men some short distance above, to attack and carry the battery spike the cannon and destroy the artillery. The Genl. was unfortunately delayed longer than he expected in passing the Rapids and the detachment destined to make the attack did not reach the landing until near nine o'clock. This however did not prevent them from making the attempt and never was anything more completely successful. The four Batteries were immediately taken possession of and their defenders driven off and the cannon spiked. Here the work of our men was done. But that confidence which always attends Militia when successful proved their ruin. Although there was time sufficient to return to the boats before a reinforcement arrived to the enemy, they remained upon the ground in spite of the repeated calls which we made across the River to bring them back and suffered themselves to be amused and drawn into the woods by some feint skirmishing whilst the British Troops and an immense body of Indians were brought up. A severe action then took place. The British immediately intercepted the retreat of our men to the plain on the river where they would have been under cover of our cannon but about one hundred and fifty only—out of nearly eight hundred effectives thus escaped to the boats. When the Ballance of Genl. Clay's force made its appearance and attempted to land above the garrison their flank was attacked by a large body of Indians I immediately ordered out a detachment consisting of part of the 19th U. S. Regt. about one hundred twelve months volunteers and some Militia. They however succeeded in driving the enemy entirely off. Pursuant to the plan which I had formed an attack was then made upon the Batteries on this side of the River conducted by Col. [John] Miller of the 19th Regt.

with part of his Regt. the aforesaid volunteers and a few militia. This attack was also completely successful the enemy were driven from their works a number killed and two British officers and forty one privates brought into camp. This attack was intended to be simultaneous with that on the other side and it was nearly so. Notwithstanding the severe loss we have sustained in the Kentucky Militia the events of the day have been honorable to the American army. The detachment under Colo. Miller suffered very little and had the militia been contented with executing what they were ordered to do every object which I had contemplated would have been accomplished.

I have only time to add that I am confident of my ability to defend this place until the expected large reinforcements arrive and that I am with great respect Sir Yr. Hb. Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble JOHN ARMSTRONG, Esq. *Secy. of War.*

You will pardon the inaccuracy of this when I inform you that I write it amidst a thousand interruptions. I will endeavor to transmit a more definite account in a day or two if the fort is not again surrounded by Indians, who have, I believe, at this moment all returned.

I have reason to believe that the guns of the enemy were very imperfectly spiked.

HARRISON AND PROCTOR

IN AN AGREEMENT FOR THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS MADE BETWEEN BRIGADIER GENERAL PROCTOR COMMANDING HIS BRITTANIC MAJESTY'S FORCES ON THE MIAMIES AND MAJOR GENERAL W. H. HARRISON COMMANDING THE NORTH WESTERN ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES.

May 7 1813

Har. Pa. 14

The prisoners of the Kentucky Militia now in possession of General Proctor to be sent to the river Huron upon the condition of not serving against Great Britain during the war between that power and the United States. Captain [Samuel] Price of the U. S. Lt. Artillery and twenty regulars of the U. S. Army now in possession of General Proctor will be considered as exchanged and permitted to serve after the termina-

tion of one month. Lieuts. McIntire and Hailes of the 41st Regt. [British] were also to be considered as exchanged but are not to serve excepting on garrison duty until the expiration of the one month. The allotment of prisoners released on each side to be furnished to the respective commissioners of each nation and the surplusage to be accounted for in a future settlement of the account of Prisoners agreeably to the tariff of exchange heretofore established.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON, *Major Genl. N. W. Army.*
HENRY G. PROCTER
Brig. General Commanding His Brittanic Majesty's Forces on the Miami

Head Qr. CAMP MEIGHS 7th May 1813.

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT May 8th, 1813
Har. Pa. 70, 71

SIR:

Your letters of the 21st and 25th ult. [see above] have been received. I never meant that you or your Artillery or stores for the campaign now collected at Fort Meigs should be brought back to Cleveland for embarkation. My intention was that the Boats built there should move along the coast in the wake of the fleet to Sandusky or to the very foot of the Rapids, if that were practicable and expedient, taking in on the route what was wanted. The Boats building, and built, by Major [Thomas Sidney] Jessup are not decked but strong and high sided and very competent to the navigation of the Lake particularly between the chains of islands and the west shore. If Major [Levi] Hukell's continuance with you as Assistant Inspector General can be made acceptable to General Hampton it will be entirely so to me. The exchange of Captain [Daniel] Baker of the 1st Infantry will enable me to give you a second officer of the same grade and department. There will be business enough for both. You may multiply your assistant Dep. Quarter Masters according to the exigencies of the Service. Governor Meigs has recommended Mr. [Joseph] Wheaton for the appointment of D. Q. M. General, Undeceive the Governor. What are the proofs of the facts stated by you in relation to Wheaton? A commission is sent to Mr. [Sam-

uel] Wells. The frontiers of the Territories seem to be in a state of much excitement from the attacks of small parties and the dread of large ones. Would there be sufficient reason for sending Colonel Johnson's mounted Riflemen into that section of the District? You can better estimate the character of their demands than I. So long as they have Malden to defend, or you to destroy, the enemy will not in my opinion take a new object. I shall soon have events in the north to communicate which fortunate or otherwise will have a considerable bearing on your operations.

P. S. Since writing this letter I have seen one from Mr. Calvin Pease dated at Sandusky and stating that you had been attacked on the 1st of May. We look confidently for a good issue to the conflict.

Major General HARRISON FORT MEIGS.

HARRISON GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters FORT MEIGS 9th May 1813

Har. Pa. 22-26

The information received by the General and the movements of the enemy indicating their having abandoned the siege of this post, the General congratulates his troops on having completely foiled their foes and put a stop to that career of victory which has hitherto attended their arms. He cannot find words to express his sence of the good conduct of the troops of every description and of every corps. As well in sustaining and returning the heavy fire of the enemy as for their assiduity and patience in the performance of those laborious duties which the occasion called for. When merit was so general indeed almost universal it is difficult to discriminate. The General can not however omit to mention the names of those whose situation gave them an opportunity of being more particularly useful. From the long illness of Capt. [Charles] Gratiot of the Corps of Engineers the arduous and important duties of fortifying the camp devolved on Capt. [Eleazer Derby] Wood of that corps. In assigning to him the first palm of merit as far as it relates to the transactions within the works the General is convinced that the decision will be awarded by every individual in camp who witnessed his indefatigable exertion, his consummate skill in providing for

the safety of every point and in foiling every attempt of the enemy and his undaunted bravery in the performance of his duty in the most exposed situations. An unfortunate wound in the commencement of the siege deprived the General after that time of the able services of Major [Amos] Stoddard of the artillery whose zeal and talents had been eminently useful. Captn. [Charles] Gratiot in the remission of a severe illness took charge of a battery and managed it with ability and effect. Capt. [Daniel] Cushing of the artillery and Capt. Hall of the 17th Infy. (but doing duty with the former corps) were extremely active and attentive to their post. To Col. [John] Miller and Major [George] Todd of the 19th U. S. Infantry Major [James V.] Ball of the Dragoons, Sodwick and Major Ritzer of the Ohio militia and Major Johnson of the Kentucky militia rendered the most important services to each of the above gentlemen as well as to each Capt. subaltern non commissioned officer and private of their respective commands the General gives his thanks and expresses his warm approbation. Also to Adjt. Brown Mr. Peters conductor of artillery Mr. Lion (principal artificer) and Timberlee and to Sergeant Henderson, Tommes and Meldrum who severally had charge of Batteries and Block Houses. The Battery managed by Sergeant Henderson was as the enemy confessed managed with peculiar efficacy and effect. With respect to the sorties which were made on the 5th Inst. the subsequent information which has been received from the prisoners has given the gallant troops which were engaged on those occasions additional claims upon the gratitude of their General. It is ascertained that in both Instances, the enemy far outnumbered our troops. The General gives his thanks to Brigadier Genl. [Green] Clay for the promptitude with which the detachment of his Brigade were landed and the assiduity given him in forming them for the attack on the left. To Col. Boswell and Major Fletcher for their gallantry and good conduct in leading them in the charge made on the enemy and to Capts. [Peter] Dudley, Simmons and Metcalf the subalterns non-commissioned officers and privates for the distinguished valour with which they defeated the enemy. The Gen. has in the order of the 6th inst. expressed his sense of the conduct of the regular troops and volunteers which were engaged in the sorties on the left flank but he omited to mention Capt. Sebree's com-

pany of Ky. Militia whose gallantry was not surpassed by that of any of the companies which fought by their side. The Pittsburg Blues led by Lt. McGee in the illness of their gallant Captain sustained the reputation which they had acquired at Mississineway the Petersburg Volunteers and Lt. Drums detachment discovered equal intrepidity. To the detachments from the 17th & 19th U. S. Regt. under their respective commanders Capt. [George] Croghan, [William] Bradford, [Angus Lewis] Langhan, [Wilson] Elliott, [Asahael] Nearing the honourable task was assigned of storming the British Batteries defended by two hundred British granadiers and light infantry flanked by an host of Indians and two companies of Canadian Militia, Col. Miller speaks in the highest terms of the conduct of the captains before mentioned and Lieutenants [James] Campbell, [David] Gwynne, [Stephen] Lee, [Samuel] Kircheval and [Jonathan] Rees and of Ensigns [Edmund] Shipp, [Martin L.] Hawkins, [Batteal] Harrison, [Charles] Mitchel and [John] Stockton. The General requests Col. Miller Major Todd and each of the officers above named together with all the officers non commissioned officers and soldiers who were engaged on the 5th Inst. to accept his thanks. The general is under the highest obligation to his staff for their conduct as well in the action of the 5th Inst. as for the assistance which he received from them, throughout the seige. Major [Levi] Hukill the acting inspector General distinguished himself by his assiduity in forwarding the parts of our works which was most necessary and which was most exposed to the fire of the enemy. From Major [Richard] Graham, his aid de camp, his volunteer aid de camp J. Johnson Esqr. and from Lt. [John] O. Fallon acting assistant adjutant general as well as from the Dep. Qr. Master Mr. [James T.] Eubanks he received the greatest assistance. It rarely occurs that a General has to complain of the excessive ardour of his men yet such appears always to be the case whenever the Kentucky militia are engaged. It is indeed the source of all their misfortune. They appear to think that valor can alone accomplish anything. The General is led to make this remark from the conduct of Capt. [William] Dudley's Company of the Regiment as he has understood that that gallant officer was obliged to turn his espontoon [?] against his company to oblige them to desist from a further pursuits

of the enemy in complyance with an order from the General. Such temerity although not as disgraceful is scarcely less fatal than cowardice. And in the instance above had it been persisted in would have given a different result to the action. As the whole of the enemy's force which were placed near the batteries would have been precipitated upon the rear of our detachment. The pursuit being stopped allowed time for a new disposition under cover of our cannon and the enemies batteries were attacked and carried without difficulty.

JOHN O'FALLON, *Act. Assistant Adjt. Genl.*

(A Copy)

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 54)

Head Quarters CAMP MIEGS 9th May 1813

Har. Pa. 10-13

SIR:

I have the honor to inform you that the enemy having been for several days making preparations for raising the seige of this post accomplished this day the removal of the last of their artillery from the opposite bank and about 12 o'clock left their encampment below were soon embarked and out of sight. I have the Honor to enclose you an agreement entered into between Genl. Procter and myself for the discharge of the Prisoners of the Kenty. Militia in his possession and for the exchange of the officers and men of the Regular Troops which were respectively possessed by us. [see May 7 above] My anxiety to get the Kentucky Troops released as early as possible induced me to agree to the dismission of all the prisoners I had Altho their was not as many of ours in Genl. Proctors possession. The surplusage is to be accounted for and an eaqual number of ours released from their parole, whenever the Government may think proper to direct it. I am sorry to inform you that the loss of the Kentucky Troops in killed and missing is much greater than I had at first believed. It amounts upwards to three hundred but of these I hope that many have escaped up the north side of the river to Fort Winchester. However much this unnecessary waste of lives may be lamented it will give you great pleasure to learn that the two actions on this side the River on the 5th were infinitely more important and more Honorable to our army than I had

at first conceived. In the Sortie made upon the left Flank Capt. [Asahel] Nearings company of the 19th Regt. a Detachment of 12 Mos. volunteers under Maj. Alexander and three companies of Kentucky Militia under Colo. [William E.] Boswell defeated at least double the number of Indians and British militia. The sortie on the right was still more glorious. The British Batteries in that direction were defended by the Granidier and Light Infantry companies of the 41st Regt. amounting to two hundred effectives and two militia companies flanked by a host of Indians. The detachment sent to attack these consisted of all the men off duty belonging to the companies of [George] Crogan and [William] Bradford of the 17th Regt. [Angus Lewis] Langham, [Wilson] Elliott late [Richard] Grahams and Nearings of the 19th about eighty of Major Alexander's volunteers and a single company of Kentucky militia under Captain Sebree, amounting on the whole to not more than three hundred and forty. Yet the event of the action was not a moment doubtful and had not the British troops been covered in their retreat by their allies the whole of them would have been taken.

It is not possible for Troops to have behaved better than ours did throughout. All the officers exerted themselves to execute my orders and the enemy who had a full view of our operations from the opposite shore declared that they had never seen so much work performed in so short a time. To all the commandants of corps I feel particular obligations. These were Col. [John] Miller of the 19th Regt. of Infy. Col. Mills of the Ohio Militia Maj. [Amos] Stoddard of the Artillery Maj. [James V.] Ball of the Dragoons and Maj. [John T.] Johnson of the Kentucky Militia. Capt. [Charles] Gratiott of the engineers having been for a long time much indisposed the task of fortifying this post devolved on Capt. [Eleazer Derby] Wood. It could not have been placed in better hands. Permit me to recommend him to the President and to assure you that any mark of his approbation bestowed on Capt. Wood would be highly gratifying to the whole of the troops who witnessed his arduous exertions. From Maj. [Levi] Hukill acting Inspector General my aid de Camp Maj. [Richard] Graham, Lieut. [John] O'Fallon who has done the duty of Asst. Ajd. Genl. in the absence of Maj. [Nathaniel] Adams and my volunteer aid de camp John Johnson Esq. I received the most useful assistance.

I have the honor to enclose you a list of the killed and wounded during the siege and in the two sorties. Those of the latter was much greater than I had at first expected. Want of sleep and exposure to the continued rains which have fallen almost every day for some time past renders me incapable of mentioning many interesting particulars amongst others a most extraordinary proposition of Colo. Proctors on the subject of the Indians within our Boundary. These shall form the subject of a communication to be made tomorrow or next day and for which I will provide a safer conveyance than that which carried this. All the Prisoners and deserters agree in saying that the information given to Maj. Stoddard by Ryland of the British haveing launched a sloop of war this spring is incorrect and the most of them say that the one which is now building will not be launched for many weeks.

I have the honor to be Sir with great respect yr. obt. Humb. Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Hon. JOHN ARMSTRONG Esqr. *Secy. of War*

P. S. Capt. [Samuel] Price of the Regt. D. Artillery and the twenty regulars prisoners with Genl. Procter were taken on the north W. side of the river with the Kenty. militia. We had no prisoner taken on this side during the seige. The return of the killed and wounded could not be gotten ready for this conveyance.

GEN. GREEN CLAY TO HARRISON

CAMP AT FORT MEIGS, May [9], 1813

Har. Pa. 15-17

SIR

On the 5th inst. about 8 o'clock, A. M. descending the Miami of the lake about midway the Rapids, with 1200 of the Kentucky troops in 18 flat bottomed boats, I was met by captain Hamilton [of the Ohio Militia] and a subaltern, who delivered me (as he said) the orders of major general Harrison to the following effect:

You must detach about 800 men from your brigade who will land at a point I will shew about one or one and half miles above the Fort, and I will conduct them to the British batteries on the left bank of the river. They must take posses-

sion of the enemy's cannon, spike them, cut down the carriages and return to their boats. Observing that the British force at their batteries was inconsiderable, but that their main force was at the old garrison, about one and a-half miles below, on the same side of the river; that the Indian forces were chiefly on the right bank of the river. The balance of the men, under your command, must land on the right bank, opposite the first landing, and will fight their way through the Indians to the Fort observing that the route thus to be taken would be shewn by a subaltern officer, there in company with capt. Hamilton, who would land the Perogue at the point on the right bank, at which the boats would land.

The order of descending the river in boats was the same as the order of march in line of battle, in solid column, each officer taking position according to his rank. Col. [William] Dudley, the eldest colonel, led the van, and in this order the river had been descended. As soon as capt. Hamilton had delivered these orders, being in the thirteenth boat from the front, I directed him to proceed immediately to col. [William] Dudley and order him to take the men in the 12 front boats, and execute general Harrison's orders on the left bank of the river; and post his (capt. Hamilton's) subaltern on the right banks to conduct myself with the men in the six rear boats to the Fort. I ordered the 5 boats in the rear to fall in a line and follow me. High winds and the rapidity of the current drove 4 of the rear boats ashore in the attempt to follow on according to order, where they remained a short time, sufficient however to detain them half or 3 quarters of a mile in the rear. To land according to order, I kept close along the right bank until opposite col. Duley's landing. There I found no guide left to conduct me to the Fort as capt. Hamilton had promised. I then made an attempt to cross the river and join col. Dudley but from the rapid current on the falls I was unable to land on the point with him. Being nearly half across the river, and the waves running too high to risk the boat then driving down the current sidewise—veered about the boat and rowed the best way we could to save our boats. My attempt to cross the river to col. Dudly, occasioned all the boats (I presume in the rear of me) and which were then out of hailing distance, to cross over and land with Col. Dudley. Having been defeated in a landing on the left, we then en-

deavored to effect one on the right, even without a guide: But before a landing could be effected we received a brisk fire from the enemy on the shore, which was returned and kept up on both sides and I was in this unavoidable situation compelled to make to Fort Meigs with no other force than about 50 men on board the other boats being still in the rear and to receive the enemy's fire until we arrived under the protection of the Fort. Col. [William E.] Boswell's command (except the men in my boat) having landed to join col. Dudley, were, as I have been informed ordered by captain Hamilton immediately to embark and land on the right hand shore about a mile above the Fort, and prepare to fight his way through to the garrison.

The colonel embarked, landed as he conceived at the proper point, pursuant to captain Hamilton's order, and was forming his men in order of battle, when he was met by captain Shaw, and ordered to march into the garrison at open order, the safest route.

When my own boat landed we were met by two men who took charge of the boat as we understood to bring her under the protection of the fort batteries. Believeing our baggage to be thus made safe, we forbid our servants to carry any portion of it, but loaded them with cannon balls which they bore to the fort. Our baggage was however taken by the Indians in a very short time after we left the boat. Upon receiving the orders of captain Hamilton, I asked if he had brought spikes to spike the enemy's cannon. To which he replied he had plenty.

I am sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GREEN CLAY, *Brig. Gen.*

His Excellency, Maj. Gen. HARRISON

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 55)

Head Quarters LOWER SANDUSKY 13th May 1813

Har. Pa. 28-37

SIR:

Having ascertained that the enemy (Indians as well as British) had entirely abandoned the neighbourhood of the Rapids I left the command of Camp Meigs with Gen. [Green] Clay and came here last night, [for[1] the purpose of providing for

1. The parts enclosed in brackets were underscored by some one in Washington.

the better security of this post and to procure some Troops for the protection of Cleveland. Another motive for the trip was the security of the prisoners of war which were sent to the River Huron in their march of 40 miles through a Wilderness from the settlements at the mouth of Huron to Mansfield. Arms and ammunition have been forwarded from this place to them and I shall take care to have the country well reconnoitred between this post and Lake Erie, the only route by which a body of Indians could approach the prisoners. I thought those steps proper altho I have the solemn promise of Gen Procter that the Indians should not be suffered to go in that direction.][1] It is with the greatest satisfaction I inform you Sir, that I have every reason to believe that the loss of the Ky. Troops in killed on the North side of the River does not exceed fifty. On the 10th and 11th Inst. I caused the ground which was the scene of the action and its environs to be carefully examined and after the most diligent search 45 bodies only of our men were discovered. Amongst them was the (weak and obstinate but brave) leader of the detachment Col. [William] Dudley. No other officer of note fell in the Action. I have strong reason to believe that a considerable number of the Kentuckians effected their retreat up the River to fort Winchester.

Gen. Proctor did not furnish me with a return of the Prisoners in his possession altho repeatedly promised. His retreat was as precipitate as it could properly be leaving a number of Cannon Ball, a new Elligant Sling carriage for Cannon and other valuable articles. The night before his departure two persons that were employed in the British Gun boats (American by Birth) deserted to us. The information they gave me was very interesting. They say that the Indians of which there were from 1600 to 2000 left the British the day before their departure in a high state of disatisfaction, from the great loss which they had sustained in the several engagements of the 5th and the failure of the British in accomplishing their promise of taking the post at the Rapids. From the account given by those men my opinion is confirmed of the great superiority of the enemy which were defeated by our Troops in the Troops sallies made on the 5th inst. That led by Col. [John] Miller did not exceed 350 men and it is very certain that they defeated 200 British Regulars,

150 militia and 4 or 500 Indians. That American Regulars (altho they were raw recruits) and such men as compose the Pittsburgh (Pa.) & Petersburg (Va.) volunteers should behave well is not to be wondered at. But that a company of Militia should maintain its ground against four times its numbers (as did Capt. Sebrees of the Ky.) is truly astonishing. These brave fellows were at length however entirely surrounded by Indians and would have been entirely cut off but for the gallantry of Lt. [David] Gwynne of the 19th Regt. who with part of Capt. [Wilson] Elliott Compy charged the enemy and released the Kentuckians. I enclose you a list of the killed and wounded during the whole seige. It is considerably larger than I had supposed it would be when I last wrote to you. But it is satisfactory to know that they did not bleed uselessly, but in the course of successful exertions. The return does not embrace the ones who fell on the N. W. side of the Miami.

[I have[1] no immediate fears for any of our posts but Fort Winchester. Genl Clay left there an immense deposit of Provisions but he certainly did not manifest his usual judgment in not reinforcing it. As soon as I do what is requisite in this quarter I shall proceed to upper Sandusky and dispatch some Troops, the first that I can command to Fort Winchester.

I have the honor to enclose you Gen. Procter's proposition to me to exchange the Ky. Militia in his possession for the friendly Indians within our line. I answered him that the subject would be refered to you but that I was pursuaded it would never be assented to.][1]

You will also receive herewith a monthly return of the Troops at Camp Meigs. For the last month the communication with the other posts being cut off, the returns were not received. A copy of Gen. Clay's Report [see May 9 above] to me of the manner of his Executing my order for the attack at the enemies Batteries is likewise forwarded—By which it will be seen that my intentions were perfectly understood—and the great facility with which they might have been executed is apparent to every individual who witnessed the scene. Indeed the cannon might have been spiked, the carriages cut to pieces, the magazine destroyed and the retreat effected to the Boats without the loss of a man. As none were killed in taking the Batteries, so complete was the surprise. An extensive open plain intervenes between the River and the Hill

upon which the Batteries of the enemy were placed. The Hill plain and was raked by 4 of our 18 pounders a 12 and a six. The enemy even before their guns were spiked could not have brought a single gun to bear upon it. So perfectly secured was their retreat the 150 men who came off effected it without loss and brought off some of the wounded one of them upon the backs of his comrades. The Indians followed them to the woods but dared not enter into the plain.

I am unable to form a correct estimate of the Enemies forces which attacked Fort Meigs. The prisoners varied much in their accounts. Those who made them least stated that the Regulars at 550 and Militia 800 but the number of Indians were beyond comparison greater than have ever been brought into the field. Numbers arrived after the seige commenced. I have caused their Camps in the south East side of the River to be particularly examined and the general opinion is that there could not have been fewer on that side than 1000 or 1200. They are indeed the efficient force of the enemy.

[Our[1] officers are unanimously of opinion that 100 of our men could in the woods defeat 200 British Regulars easier than 100 Indians.

The public property has suffered very much during the siege. The 24 pound shot and 8½ inch shells destroyed the roofs of all of our Block Houses and Stores and the rains which fell the greater part of the time has greatly injured many articles. I am under the greatest apprehension for the salted beef and Pork which had been put down in bath. Before the siege commenced the making of barrels to repack it had progressed considerably. The seasoned timber was however nearly all made up and Kiln drying of the rest was necessarily suspended. Gen. Clay has particular directions to attend to it and no one has more judgment in such matters.][1]

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favours of 14th 17th 18th and 28th Ult. and 4 Inst. [see above]

Upon a reconsideration of all the circumstances which induced me to order Gen. [Duncan] McArthur & Col. [John] Miller to repair to the Miami Rapids I do not consider that I merit the rebuke contained in your letter of the 14th Ult. When the order was given to Colo. Miller an Ohio Militia Col. was on his way to camp Meigs whose rank would have given him the command after the departure of Gen. Leftwich and

Crooks and whose militiary information is perhaps as limited as that of any person who ever held a commission. Lt. Col. [John B.] Campbell of the 19th Regt. was shortly to return from Furlough and was intended to supply Col. Millers place. In the meantime an officer every way adequate was found on the spot in the person of Major [John] Whistler.

When the order was first given to Gen. McArthur to repair to the Rapids in the event of his receiving the appointment, it was done from the motive of securing an officer of rank and experience for the command of that post.

I think I am incapable of suffering myself to be governed by any personal consideration in opposition to my duty and the Public interest I believe that no one who is acquainted with the situation of my family when I last come into the settlement can believe that there ever existed stronger claims upon the feelings of a husband and a Father than those by which I was assailed urging my remaining at Cincinatti for some weeks. The afflictions and suffering of the Major part of my family are without a parallel, yet it will I think be admitted from the promptitude of my return to Fort Meigs that I should not have been induced to go into the settlement at all had I not supposed that it was my proper post—and that a Junior Officer could be entrusted with the command of Fort Meigs. My after experience has convinced me of the correctness of this opinion. The order to Gen. McAruthur was long since countermanded.

I have not yet been honored with your command upon the subject of the assembling the Troops, the direction of their march etc nor do I know whether it is expected that I should give directions with regard to the providing of Artillery, ordinance Stores etc. From a letter writeen by Major [Isaac] Craig at Pittsburgh to Major [Amos] Stoddard it would seem that order had been given to the Dy. Commander of Ordnance there to make the proper provisions. I can now state to you a circumstance which prudence forbid me to mention in any former letter—at the commencement of the seige we had but 360,18 Pd. shot and less than that quanity for 12 pounders, the whole quanity of the former sent on from Pittsburgh was 500. We were therefore obliged to be extremely sparing of our fire from the 18 pounders or I do believe from the effect which they produced on the Enemy's Batteries we could have

completely silenced them before they were spiked. Their 12 pounders supplied us with shot of that description but they had no eighteens their large guns being all twenty fours.

I am sorry to inform you that Major [Amos] Stoddard died the night before I left the Rapids of a Lock Jaw produced by a slight wound from the fragement of a shell which struck him on the thigh. Several have died in this way from their great unavoidable exposure to cold.—but the Sergeons assured me and my own observations sanctioned the opinion that perhaps there never was so many instances of desperate wounds being likely to do well. The Gallant Capt. [William] Bradford will recover.

I shall go from here to upper Sandusky and shall take my station at Delaware or Franklinton until the troops are assembled. Gen. Clay who commanded at the Rapids is a man of Capacity and is entirely to be relied on. I have the Honor to be with great respect

Sir your Humble Servt.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

The Honble. JOHN ARMSTRONG Esq. *Sectary of War*

P. S. I am mortified upon examing the enclosed monthly return. You will pardon its slovenly appearance when you are informed that it was made by a young gentleman who never did anything of the kind before. Nor was there an officer in Camp Meigs Hukel excepted & the two captains of the Engenier Corps who could have made it better. Capt. Adams has not yet joined me.

MEIGS: GENERAL ORDERS

Headquarters, LOWER SANDUSKY, May 14, 1813

Niles' Register IV, 223

The governor of Ohio hastens to inform the good citizens of the state, who have rallied and repaired to his standard, upon his call to 'arms' with a promptitude and zeal which proves their patriotism and love of country, that their services are rendered unnecessary by a change of circumstances which required the call. The most important fortress of the western country, Camp Meigs, was invested by the enemy—information of it reached his excellency, and orders immediately issued. In an instant you were soldiers—the prompt-

ness, good order and regularity of your march excites admiration. His excellency is entirely satisfied with your conduct; and for it returns his warmest thanks. He is sensible your domestic avocations at this season of the year, must require your laobrs at home—a sufficient force reached his headquarters to afford adequate relief, which he designed to command in person—many more were on their march, but thanks to the valor, talents and exertions of the commanding general, and his brave little army, they have convinced the enemy of the rashness of his enterprize, compelled him to raise the seige, and seek his own safety in flight! The governor, therefore, gives you an honorable discharge, which I am ordered to make public; and also that you have the thanks and respect of his excellency the commanding general who is advised of your movements.

By his excellency's command,

HENRY BRUSH

HARRISON TO POAGUE

(No date given) (May 15, 1813)

Penn. Mag. of History, XXXII, 117

DEAR SIR:

The enemy have fled & as it is difficult to get provisions in front for the pursuit, you will be so obliging as order Col. [Philip] Barber to return immediately to St. Marys with his Regiment as well as Jenkinsons Battalion & the Col. must have directions to furnish a small escort of from 20 to 30 men with the waggons which may be ready to come out with provisions from St. Marys. With your own Regiment you will continue to open the road on to Fort Defiance & bring on with you the stores &c. of the Militia which are under the charge of Col. [William] Jennings. You will be pleased also to dispatch Capt. [Angus] Langham immediately with all the Beeves excepting about 60 & these sixty you had better send back to Col. Jennings to keep.

Order Capt. Langham to proceed with the utmost rapidity with the beeves & with the pack-horses, which were at Col. Jennings block house. If you did not bring the pack-horses with you Capt. Langham must not wait for them but must come on with the beeves & when Col. Jennings sends on the

pack horses to you, you will be pleased to dispatch 20 men under a subaltern with them,

Yours respectfully

WM. H. HARRISON

Col. [ROBERT] POAGUE

I have ordered your tents & baggage to be brought in from St. Marys to you. You had better send back the Quarter-Master to attend to bringing them on.

HARRISON: GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, FRANKLINTON, May 16th, 1813

Dawson's *Harrison, 395*

The commanding General has observed with the warmest gratitude the astonishing exertions, which have been made by his excellency governor Meigs, and the generals and other militia officers of this state, in collecting and equiping a body of troops for the relief of camp Meigs. But the efforts of these men would have been unavailing, had they not been seconded by the patriotic ardor of every description of citizens, which has induced them to leave their homes, at a most critical season of the year, regardless of every consideration but that of rendering service to their country. The General found the road from Lower Sandusky to this place, literally covered with men, and amongst them many who had shared in the toils and dangers of the revolutionary war, and on whom, of course, there existed no legal claim for military services. The General has every reason to believe, that similar efforts have been made in Kentucky. He offers to all those brave men from both states, his sincere acknowledgements; and is happy to inform them, that there is at present no necessity for their longer continuance in the field. The enemy has fled with precipitation from camp Meigs, and that is in a much better situation to resist an attack, than when the last siege was commenced.

By order of the General,

R. GRAHAM, *Aid*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 56.)

Head Quarters FRANKLINTON 18th May, 1813

Har. Pa. 38-39

SIR:

I had the honor this moment to receive your favour of the 8th inst. [see above] I am perfectly convinced that nothing can be more correct than the opinion you have given of the nature and extent of the warfare that is and will be carried on upon the frontiers of the Territories. I will at least guarantee that no attempt in force will be made on the Wabash, nor do I believe that any other than light parties will invest the Illinois. Dixon if he has artillery may attempt to carry one of the posts on the Mississippi or perhaps attack some of the exposed villages, but I rather suppose that he will not descend lower than Prairie de Chien. There is no object that would authorize the risk and there would be great difficulty to persuade the Indians to attack posts and villages in any other way than by treachery. I am perfectly acquainted with the Wabash and Illinois Indians and I am fully persuaded that since the departure of Tecumseh and his brother from that quarter the larger part will remain neutral. Such is the activity of these people in the kind of warfare which they carry on upon the frontiers that a very few can do a great deal of mischief. I ascertained that seven of those scoundrels killed no less than thirty odd of our people (men, women, & children) in the course of a few weeks of the spring of 1812. I shall set out for Cincinnati the day after tomorrow. I will from thence be able to give you more correct opinion of the course which is to be pursued to protect the frontiers. I will answer your inquiry on the sub. of [Joseph] Wheaton tomorrow, and am with great respect sir Your

Humble Servant.

WILIAM HENRY HARRISON

Hon. JOHN ARMSTRONG

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 57)

Head Quarters FRANKLINTON May 18th, 1813

Har. Pa. 40-47

SIR:

In the evening of the day on which I had the honor to address you from Lower Sandusky Gov. Meigs arrived at that place with about 500 mounted and dismounted Infantry.

Upon a consultation with the Gov. it was determined that all the Troops of which there were as he supposes, two or three thousand in motion, should be dismissed as soon as possible, excepting two hundred for the Garrison of Lower Sandusky. There appeared to be no motive for retaining them as it was evident that the enemy, Indians as well as British, had returned to Malden. Expresses were sent along the principal roads with directions for all the troops of every description to return; more than three fourths of them were volunteer corps raised by popular and patriotic men who turned out for the occasion without wishing or expecting any compensation. There were however amongst them some drafted men to make less the deficiency of the former call. Of these I desired the Governor to form two companies of 100 men each for the garrison of Lower Sandusky and I ordered the Garrison of that place amounting to 125 to proceed to Cleveland. As they were taken from the Militia of the Connecticut Reserve, the neighbourhood of that place. The governor has gone on in person to Cleveland and will complete this detachment to two companies of one hundred each—at least he will endeavour to make this arrangement, but it cannot be done without the consent of both men and officers. The law of this State makes a company to consist of 72 non-commissioned officers and privates. The men have the privilege of electing their own officers and they cannot be forced to serve in any other way than their own laws direct until they are organised under one passed by the United States. I found Gen. Cass with Gov. Meigs. He had ordered in a full company of 13 months Recruits from Zanesville and a part of another from this neighbourhood. They have been directed to return to this place.

Gen. McArthur was on Hull's Road marching in the direction of the Rapids with about 300 men and will probably have proceeded as far as Fort Findley before he meets the messenger who was sent with order for his return. I have directed him to ascertain the situation of Fort Winchester and reinforce the Garrison. From the Kentucky newspapers I learn that Colo. [R. M.] Johnsons Regt. of mounted riflemen were ordered by Gov. Shelby to rendevous at Georgetown on the 20th inst. for the purpose of marching to Fort Meigs, I have dispatched an express to the Colo. desiring him to dismiss his

men. The citizens of Ohio and Kentucky deserve great credit for the promptitude of their exertions upon this occasion. But the above detail of the loose manner in which they were proceeding to the scene of action sufficiently indicates what would have been their fate had they attempted to force a passage to Fort Meigs with the small detachments that were in advance.

By a gentleman who has just arrived from Lexington I learn that the 24th Regt. left that place on Friday last and that after marching a few miles upon the Limestone road, took the direction of Georgetown and Cincinnati. I have had no communication whatever with Colo. [William P.] Anderson and I am not acquainted with the route prescribed to him. As Cleveland will soon have a respectable Militia Corps for its protection I would by no means recommend that the 24th Regt. proceed thither.

General Cass informed me that it is one of the most sickly places in the Western Country; that even in spring the inhabitants are much subject to intermittent and billious fevers. I should certainly prefer the route by the two Sanduskys or that of St. Marys and Fort Winchester for all the troops coming from Kentucky or those reunited in this state west of the Muskingum River and south of the dividing ridge between the waters of Lake Erie and those of the Ohio. The Militia above mentioned and such of the Recruits as are raised in the Connecticut Reserve and East of the Muskingum would, I should suppose, be adequate to the defence of Cleveland.

I hope to receive your particular instructions. I am far from wishing to avoid responsibility. I am only fearful of counteracting your intentions without knowing them. The recruiting of the 12 months men suffers much from the want of Clothing. Gen. Cass informs me that he has not heard that any has been sent in.

I have seen and conversed with several of the Militia who were made prisoners on the north side of the Miami on the 5th inst. They state the loss of the enemy in killed and wounded as very great. One of them who was wounded himself says that there were sixty nine of the enemys wounded on board the same vessel with himself. The Indians also suffered very severely but retaliated upon our unfortunate prisoners. The man from whom I received the information states that at least 40 were killed after they were prisoners that the British in vain endeavoured to prevent it and a British soldier

was shot down (a centinel I believe) in endeavouring to counteract them in the presence of the British officers. Numbers of the Indians left their allies on the Evening of the 5th.

I have the honor to enclose you a paper presented to me by all the field officers shortly after the attack upon Fort Meigs commenced requesting me to allow the men an additional half ration; being fully convinced that they could not undergo the excessive labour required of them unacquainted as they were with those Economical arrangements which enables the experienced soldier to subsist upon his allowence. I could not hesitate to comply with the recommendation of the officers and the measure will I hope meet your approbation.

In the course of last winter I directed Major [Amos] Stoddard to prepare an estimate of the Ordnance, ordnance stores and ammunition which would be wanted for the ensuing campaign. His estimate was made out and forwarded to Capt. [Hezekiah] Johnson at Pittsburgh who delivered it to the Dy. Commissary of Ordnance there. As I had no information at that time of the determination of the Government to obtain the naval superiority on Lake Erie, I directed the cannon (5-18 Pounders) to be sent early in the spring to Cincinatti, that it might be taken by the route of the Miami of the Ohio and that of the Lake to Fort Meigs. I was accidently informed some time since that five cannon of that description had arrived at New port, but that it was not known whether they were intended for the North Western Army or to descend the Mississippi. Three days ago I received information from the Dy. Commissary of Ordnance [Abram R.] Woolley that they were those which I had required. The season of navigating the Miamis has now passed and I have no alternative but that of bringing them up the Ohio to the mouth of the Scioto and from thence by land to Sandusky. I have directed the Dy. Commissary of Ordnance to send the remaining part of the Stores required to such point on the lake as may have been selected for the other stores which are to be sent from Pittsburgh.

Major [James V.] Balls Squadron is now here the horses suffered considerably during the seige, many were killed and the whole so reduced that it was with difficulty they were gotten in. They will however be soon and cheaply recruited in the rich pastures which this country affords.

Major [Amos] Stoddard's death will make it necessary that

another field officer of Artillery should be sent on to this Army. Indeed a few experienced subaltern officers of that Corps would be highly desireable.

A Sergt. [John] Henderson of the Petersburgh Va. Volunteers had charge of the most important Battery during the siege and distinguished himself much. That corps consists chiefly of young Gentlemen of the first respectability in the State. Mr. Henderson is not inferior to any of them in correct and gentlemanly deportment. He would accept of a Second Lieutenancy of Artillery and would I am pursuaded do honor to the appointment.

I have the honor to be with Great Respect Sir Your Humble Servant.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

JOHN ARMSTORNG Esq. *Sect. of War*

HARRISON TO B. G. ORR

Head Quarters, FRANKLINTON, May 19, 1813

Am. Sta. Pa.—Military Affairs I, 645

SIR:

You will be pleased to provide for the issuing of provisions at such places within the settlements as Brigadier Generals [Duncan] M'Arthur and [Lewis] Cass, and Major [J. C.] Bartlett, the Deput Quartermaster General, may require. I can give no direction with regard to the forwarding of provisions to the frontiers, or the lakes; nor information as to the delivery of those which the Government have accumulated there, until I receive further information from the Secretary of War. But the posts of Cleveland and Lower Sandusky having been exclusively furnished by the late contractor (Mr. Porter) it will be necessary that you make immediate arrangements for issuing at both these places by the 1st of June. Provision should be made at Cleveland for at least eight hundred daily issues, and at Lower Sandusky for four hundred.

I am, respectfully, your humble servant,

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

BENJAMIN G. ORR, *Contractor*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 58)

Head Quarters FRANKLINTON 19th May 1813

Har. Pa. 48-52

SIR:

The circumstances which occasioned the suspicions against Capt. [Joseph] Wheaton and which I learned from Capt. [John H.] Piatt Dy. Qr. M. Genl. are as follows. He was sent from Pittsburgh with some cannons in Waggons, a number of Cannon Carriages and some waggons with stores and ammunition in the whole about 70 teams. His route lay through New Lisbon in this state, Canton, Wooster and Mansfield to Upper Sandusky and he was furnished by the Quarter Master with 7500 Dollars for forage and other incidental expenses. Upon his arrival at Canton he drew upon the Secretary of War for a considerable sum, if I recollect right 2500 or 3500 Dollars —at Wooster 30 miles from Canton he sent an Express to Capt. Piatt requesting a supply of 3000 Dollars, which was sent to him at Wooster he was also furnished with about 1000 bushels of grain, deposited there by Capt. Piatt At Mansfield 30 miles from Wooster he again sent to Capt. Piatt for 2 or 3000 Dollars which was by my order refused. But he received there 600 bushels of grain from Capt. Piatt's Agent. From Wooster to Mansfield there are no settlements from thence to Sandusky a distance of 45 miles, there is not a house. Capt. Wheaton reached the latter place early in Jany and in a few days after the cannon and waggons arrived. The Horses so worn down the greater part of them drawing empty carriages, that they could scarcely be gotten into the settlement. In a short time after his arrival Capt. Piatt informed me that he was convinced that Capt. Wheaton could not have expended in the public Service all the money he had received. That he appeard to wish to get as much as possible in his hands and that he believed that Wheaton had a large sum in a small trunk in his possession. I was so fully impressed with the probability of this being the case that I had at one time determined to seize the trunk and have it examined. Wheaton afterwards made an attempt, in settling with the Team drivers, to get from them a voucher which would have been passed to his credit in the War office, and give them his own private due bills for the amount; this was however prevented by Capt.

Piatt and I believe that the Waggoners were sent back to Pittsburg without their pay. There is no necessity for my saying any thing to Gov. Meigs to develope Wheatons character. The latter was sent from this place by Major [John C.] Bartlett as Quarter Master for the Troops which the Gov. was taking on to the Rapids when I met them at Lower Sandusky the Gov. informed me that he had never seen a man so entirely worthless and unfit for any kind of duty and that he was laughed at and scorned by all the detachment. Such indeed is his character. I regret the necessity of speaking in this way of a man who never did me an injury and employed more of his thoughts and time in endeavours to conciliate and gain my confidence than he does in the discharge of the duties of his appointment.

In the beginning of March I suffered Doctor [Garret E.] Pendergrast to leave the army on Furlough for six or eight weeks upon his informing me that he would incur a great loss of property if he were not permitted to go to Philadelphia. He pledged himself to return as there was no surgeon belonging to the Regular Troops I selected Doctor [Hugh] Stannard the Senior Surgeon of the Virginia Brigade of Militia to take charge of the Hospital Stores and superintend the Hospital until the return of Doctor Pendergrass. Since the discharge of his Brigade I have continued him, because there was no other in service within my reach that could be trusted with the important duties that he performs. The Surgeon of the 19th Regt. has been represented to me, by several Medical and other respectable characters upon whom I can rely, as being a perfect quack, alike destitute of Talents, medical experience and education. This will surprise you when you recollect that he was recommended by the members of the Senate of this State. He wrote a recommendation, procured the signatures of several members and the rest signed it because others had done it. They now, I am told, express wonder at his having been appointed. Doctor Stannard will continue to act until another is sent out. He would, I believe gladly accept a prominent appointment, I know that he stands very high in the estimation of Gov. Barbour of Virginia.

Mr. B. G. Orr met me at this place and showed me a copy of a contract he has made for supplying the Troops under my command. Is it intended that the provisions belonging to

the United States should be delivered to him? I think the public would gain by turning it all over to him with an allowance of 12½ per cent for issuing.

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir your

Obt. Humble Servant.,

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

The Honble JOHN ARMSTRONG, Esq, *Sect. of War*

P. S. The christian name of Sergt. Henderson whom I had the honor to recommend to you for an appointment is John.

GENERAL ORDERS

Adjutant General's Office, Head-Quarters, KINGSTON,
May 21, 1813

Niles' Register IV, 272

The commanding general has great satisfaction in announcing to the troops the brilliant result of an action which took place on the banks of the Miami river on the 5th inst. with part of the North Western Army of the United States, under major-general Harrison, and which terminated in the complete defeat of the enemy, and capture, dispersion or destruction of thirteen hundred men, by the gallant division of the army under the command of the brigadier general [Henry] Proctor. Five hundred prisoners were taken, exclusive of those who fell into the hands of the Indians, and whose number could not be ascertained.

Brigader-general Proctor praises the gallant conduct of those under his command, and refers to official despatches not yet received. The enemy's loss was very severe; while that of the British amounted only to 14 rank and file killed—1 subaltern, 4 serjeants, and 37 rank and file wounded. Of the militia, 1 captain killed 4 rank and file wounded.

EDWARD BAYNES, *Adj. Gen.* [*British Army*]

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT May 21st 1813

Har. Pa. 72, 73

SIR:

The letters you did me the honor to write to me on the 5th, 9th and 13th [see above] instant have been received and sub-

mitted to the President, who has been pleased to direct that I should communicate to you, and through you to the Troops composing the garrison of fort Meigs, his thanks for the valor and patriotism displayed in the defence of that place, and particularly by the Corps employed in the Sorties made on the 5th instant.

Your future requisitions for ordnance stores will be governed by the quantity on hand at Fort Meigs and Franklinton and the number and calibre of the pieces you propose to take with you against Malden. Your whole train, if I am well informed, amounts to thirty five pieces of which nine are eighteen pounders.

The 24th Regiment was on the 10th instant at Lexington (Ky.) on their way to Cleveland. You will give it any other point of rendezvous you may think proper and adopt such means to assemble the other parts of your Division, as will be most advisable. On this head I would but suggest that the arrangement which shall best mask your real design and most impress the enemy with a belief that your march to Malden will be by land will be the best.

Clothing for the 26th, 27th, and 28th Regiments has been forwarded from Philadelphia.

The last accounts of the Boats preparing by Major [Thomas S.] Jessup were favorable. That officer will necessarily report to you and take your orders.

General Proctor's proposition concerning the Indians within our Limits, was artful and perhaps but meant to excite suspicions of them on our part, while it held out to the Indian the paternal regards of H. B. Majesty.

Major Genl. HARRISON

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 59)

Head Quarters, CINCINNATTI 23rd May, 1813

Har. Pa. 53-56

SIR:

Upon my arrival here yesterday evening, I was informed that Col. [R. M.] Johnson had arrived at New Port a few hours before with his Regiment of mounted Infantry. He called on me this morning and delivered the letter of which the enclosed is a copy. [see following] He further stated to

me that when he met with the person bearing my order for turning back the Troops which had been embodied for the relief of Fort Meigs he had consulted the officers upon the propriety of dismissing their men and it was their unanimous opinion that if they were now disappointed in their expectation of engaging in actual service they could never again be brought into the field. This consideration together with the letter the Col. had received from you informing him that I had been authorized to employ the Regiment for the protection of the Frontiers induced him to determine to come on until they received further directions from me.

Being as yet uninformed as to the situation of affairs on the Illinois, Wabash and Mississippi, I could not determine upon the propriety of sending these Troops there immediately. But under the circumstances I am pursuaded that a demonstration in the direction of Fort Wayne, by such a body of mounted men would be attended with very happy effects. I am not entirely at ease on the subject of the garrisons in that direction. The enemy, if they understand their business (wanting provisions as they do) will certainly make an attempt to carry some of our weak posts where we have large deposits. Col. Johnson's Corps will make all safe in that quarter. Should it be determined to send them to the Territories the route down the Wabash from Fort Wayne would be quite as eligible as any other and by a little inclination to the north they might strike some of the Indian Villages on the St. Joseph or the heads of the Illinois.

I shall order them therefore to Fort Winchester in the first instance from thence they can go to either of the Territories, make a Coup De Main on some of the Villages in the Vicinity of Chicago or some short time hence in conjunction with the squadron of dragoons an attack upon Detroit or Brownstown by a very favourable route leading from Fort Wayne across the head Waters of the River Raison. I have always been partial to the assembling a body of Troops in the Vicinity of Fort Wayne. It is in the immediate line of communication between the Indians of the Wabash, Illinois, Mississippi and the South and West sides of Lake Michigan and Malden.

Col. [William P.] Anderson with the part of his Regiment which was at Massac has arrived here. The Col. has just waited on me and shewed me his orders which were to

procceed to Cleveland. Being at this place there is no more eligible route even to Cleveland than that by the way of Franklinton and Upper Sandusky. But I should suppose that it is no longer desirable that he should go to Cleveland. I fear before he could reach that point that the vessels may be on the way up the lake to receive the Troops.

I shall leave this in a few days for Franklinton and commence the assembling the Troops as soon as I receive your orders.

I have heard indirectly that the recruiting of the 12 months men goes on briskly in Kentucky. But I have received no Report. Indeed I know from common fame only who has been appointed the Col. of the Regt. to be raised there.

I have the honor to be with
great respect, Sir, Your Obt. Hbl Servant

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

The Honble JOHN ARMSTRONG Esq. *Secretary of War*

R. M. JOHNSON TO HARRISON

CINCINNATTI, 23rd May, 1813

Har. Pa. 57, 58

SIR:

The attack upon Fort Meigs, the small force which you were known to have to defend that important post, the danger of the intermediate Posts on the left wing of the army under your command and other considerations equally important and impressive induced me to anticipate the wishes of the President and Secretary of war in marching the Regt. of Mounted Volunteers to your command with every practicable dispatch. You are aware that the Gov. of the state of Kentucky had also recommended the measure.

After having fixed the day of Rendezvous I was happy to receive a letter from the Secretary of war in which he intimated that you were authorized to call the Regt. in executing the plan of a Campaign which you had reported to the Secretary, and stating positively taht you were authorised to use the Regt. for the defence of the Territorial Frontiers. Under this view of the subject, I considered it my indispensible duty to march the Regt. to the Ohio River and prepare for actual service.

I am well convinced that if the Regt. should now be dismissed, it cannot easily be collected, for reasons obvious and not necessary to be enumerated. My desire to continue in the service with the Regt. does not arise more from the great anxiety of officer and men to serve their country, than from what I consider the real advantage which will result from that service. I am now anxiously waiting to know what is your determination and whether you consider the service of the Regt. at this time important and necessary, if so, to receive your orders upon that ground and I wish your decision, as I am convinced that what ever course you may pursue, it will meet the entire approbation of the President of the U. States and Secretary of War.

With sentiments of great
respect and esteem your Obt. Servt
(Signed) R. M. JOHNSON

General W. H. HARRISON

DR. SAMUEL M'KEEHAN'S NARRATIVE

May 24, 1813

Niles' Register IV, 244

On the 31st of January last, I was ordered by general Harrison to proceed to the river Raisin, with a flag of truce, and from thence to Malden, if not stopped by the Indians. We arrived at the foot of the rapids of the Miami at dark, and not finding a company of rangers as expected, we encamped in a cave [?], the horse and cariole before the door, and a flag standing by them. About mid-night the Indians fired in upon us, killed Mr. Lemont, wounded myself in the foot, and made us prisoners. After dispatching Mr. Lemont with the tomahawk, scalping and stripping him, they seized my horse, harness, great coat, blankets and other cloathing, and one hundred dollars in gold, which the general had sent to procure necessaries for the wounded of general Winchester's army.

That night I was made to walk more than twenty miles to where captain Elliott was stationed with a party of Indians. The Captain treated me politely, and sent me to colonel Proctor. I was scarcely seated before the colonel began to abuse general Harrison, said he had been used to fight with Indians, and not British; found fault with my instructions, and said

the flag was only a pretext to cover a bad design. I rebutted his insinuations with indignation, which I believe was the cause of all my troubles, since I was not received in my official character until the 5th of February, when I was informed by Proctor's aid, that I should attend the wounded with Dr. Bower, and that I should be sent to the United States, but by a different route from that by which I came. Dr. Bower in a few days was sent home and I detained.

On the 2d of March I was arrested by order of colonel Proctor, and accused of carrying on a private correspondence. On the 8th, without having any trial, I was ordered to Montreal, and hurried on from Fort George night and day, although thinly clothed and the weather very cold. From Kingston to Prescott, I was made to eat with the officer's servants! This course of torture being finished on the 28th, when I arrived at Montreal, and without being asked any questions, or being suffered to ask any myself, I was put into a dungeon, eight or ten feet below the surface of the ground, where I had neither bed or bedding, chair, bench or stool—denied pen, ink, paper; or even the use of a book, for two weeks. The only fresh current of air that passed through my apartment came through the bowels of the privy! Here I was kept thirty-three days, when I was to my great joy, put up with the American prisoners, and with them permitted to remain till last Monday, when I was liberated by the intercession of lieutenant Dudley, of the navy. Colonel Baynes aid to the governor told me that the outrage which had been committed on my person was contrary to his orders.

I left fourteen American prisoners in jail, who were kept in close confinement, notwithstanding colonel Lethbridge and major Shackelford had pledged their words to captain Conkey, before he left Montreal for Quebec, that they should have the liberty of the town during the day. But the captain was scarcely gone, when the pledge was either forgotten or disregarded. The prisoners now are not permitted to procure such necessaries as their small stock of money would provide. Sometimes they are half a day without water, and two or three days without wood, and if they complain, they are cursed and abused by the jailor, and told they are only allowed a quart of water in the day. I am requested to represent their situation to gen. Dearborn, which I intend to do as soon as I arrive at Sackett's Harbor.

This is a sketch of the indignities I have had to put up with since the last of January.

I am yours, &c.

SAMUEL M'KEEHAN

JOHN WINGATE TO HARRISON

ST. MARY'S, May 28th, 1813

Har. Pa. 59-61

SIR:

The copious fall of rain has given an opportunity of sending on all the company stores at this place, and the principal part at Amanda. 18 flat boats started from this post last evening well loaded and there are 28 boats at Amanda but have not men to mann all of them, every man able to do duty at this post descended the St. Mary's with boats from here. I have ordered all from Amanda but a Sergeant, Corpl. and 12 men, and have ordered Ensign [James] Gray from Ft. Lorimies with 17 recruits to Ft. Amanda to descend with boats to the rapids; it appears I cannot raise as many men as will mann all the boats at Amanda. Col. [B. G.] Orr used every exertion to procure some assistance from the Indians, but could not prevail upon them to send one man, there is something new amongst them. They find a thousand faults, they say there is but few of them and we wish to have them cut off by placeing them in the front of battles and other dangerous places, and that they receive no pay for their services, they also say that the British Indians, (those that were prisoners) had told them they had taken a number of towns and that their forces would soon meet those in the north and take their whole country, which appears to have staggered their faith & Col. Orr and others have attempted to explain away those impressions but without success. They are still under the idea that the Americans are trying to deceive them and that they stand in a very critical situation, and appeared to be at a stand how to act.

The Boats at Amanda will not start for 3 days as the water is now too high and rising, we will start as many as possible, all if we can. I have directed them to make a stand at Fort Winchester and send two or three of the men to Fort Meigs and ascertain whether it be safe to proceed to the Rapids and

if not safe to ask assistance & Further orders from Gen. McArthur who I understand commands at Ft. Meigs.

I expect a small rifle company from the 5th division to be here this evening or tomorrow, one half at least, ought to be stationed at Lorimies; you will see the necessity of more men being ordered on to this place.

Capt. [Hugh] Moore complains of not being reinforced at Ft. Wayne the Company I expected here this evening are very anxious about some money. I promised them a month's pay before they agreed to come on. I think a line from Your Excellency to the District paymaster would be of service for if they should disperse we shall be left in an unpleasant situation on this line. I have written Mr. [Jesse] Hunt on the subject &c.

A few minutes ago Black Fish an Indian came in, he states that one of Blue Jackets sons was at Wogpockhana, a few days ago this fellow fought against you at Fort Meigs, this will explain the former part of my letter.

I have just learned but 15 Boats will start from Amanda and that they will set out about 10 o'clock tomorrow. There ought to have set out 28 but there are no men to take them.

There is yet then, a very considerable quantity of provision &c.

Your Excellency will at once see the necestity of sending more troops on this line.

I am Yours &c with High Esteem

JOHN WINGATE, *Br. Gl. 3rd Detachment O. M.*

His Excellency Genl. HARRISON

A true copy WM. WINCHESTER, Lt. Aid de Camp

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT May 31, 1813

Har. Pa. 74, 75

SIR:

Your letter of the 19th instant has been received. [see above]

Arrangements will be made for increasing the medical staff of your command.

Herewith inclosed you will receive a copy of the contract for supplying the troops in the State of Ohio. You are au-

thorized to fill up the blank attached to the copy and to appoint agents to deliver over to Messrs. [B. G.] Orr and [Aaron] Greely such provisions now in deposit as you may deem proper to issue according to the agreement, taking their duplicate receipts for the same, one of which must be transmitted to the accountant of this Department and one to the Superintendent General of Military Supplies that Orr and Greely may be held accountable for the provisions so received.

Major Genl. HARRISON

GENERAL ORDERS

CHILLICOTHE, June 5, 1813

Niles' Register IV, 271

The unaccountable delay which has taken place in the marching of some of the detachments of troops destined for the North Western Army, makes it necessary that some effectual remedy be provided for an evil which is pregnant with the most fatal consequences.

The general, therefore, directs that every officer when ordered to march with a detachment of troops, shall, upon receiving the orders, commence a journal in which he shall insert the date of his having received the order, and every circumstance which tends to procrastinate his march, or delay it after it shall have commenced until his arrival at the point of destination. In all cases where the orders may have been received from the general, or where detachments are destined for the head-quarters of the army, or any post upon the frontiers, a copy of the journal so kept and certified on honor by the commanding officer, will be forthwith forwarded to the adjutant general's office. In all other cases the copy of the journals will be sent to the officer ordering the march.

By order,

ROBERT BUTLER, *Cap. 24th Inf. Assist, Adj. General*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 61)

Head Quarters FRANKLINTON 8th June, 1813

Har. Pa. 62-66

SIR:

I met here a soldier of the 19th Regt. who had been taken

from Camp Meigs in March last by the Indians, ransomed by some of our citizens at Detroit and landed with about 50 of the Kentucky Militia at Huron on the 19th Ultimo. This man confirms the account of the dispursion of the Indians and he says that he was repeatedly informed that they went off in high disgust against the British, many of them declaring that they would never again make war upon the United States. The reason assigned for their disatisfaction was the failure of the attempt upon Fort Meigs. The British had promised to put them in possession of all the Country between the Ohio and the Lake. The provisions which they expected to take at Fort Meigs was to afford them the means of further operations. Many of them observed that they were now convinced that the British were unable to perform their promise as they had been repulsed from Fort Meigs.

I have no doubt of the correctness of this information. But I should deeply regret to having any effect to retard our operations or lessen the force which it was contemplated to employ. The declarations of an Indian and even his feelings today give no security for his conduct on tomorrow—nor ought any calculations to be drawn from the destruction of their destined presents at York. A substitute can easily be found in the large stock of goods which are in the possession of private Traders. The British agents are well acquainted with the Indian Character. Long experience has put them in possession of all the means by which their confidence is to be obtained or their passions stimulated. The communication from Gov. [Ninian] Edwards to Gov. [Isaac] Shelby and which I have seen published in the Kentucky papers shows the correctness of the opinion which you long since formed. That as long as they had Malden to protect or my Army to destroy they would never think of any other than a desultory war upon our Western Settlements. All the Indians that they can possibly raise from the country between the Lakes and Mississippi will certainly be brought down to Malden.

It appears to me that a collateral expedition of (to the one across the Lakes) mounted men directed immediately against Detroit or wherever the Indians might be found would be highly useful. It could be accomplished with little expense. Col. [R. M.] Johnson's Regt. and the Dragoons under Lt. Col. [Jas. V.] Ball might be encreased by Volunteers from Ken-

tucky and this state who would serve for 30 or 40 days without pay to a most formidable body.

Will you be pleased to inform me whether such an expedition will be permitted by the Government. The Volunteers I speak of will not be Militia but associations of Individuals who will select their own officers and which in this country will bring out the best men in it, generally those who are no longer on the Militia rolls—at least four fifths of the officers will be of that description.

I did myself the honor to inform you that Capt. [Nathaniel] Adams had declined the appointment of Asst. Adjt. Genl. As there was a necessity of having an officer of that department with me I have appointed Capt. Robt. Butler of the 24th Regt. to do the duty. He is well qualified for it and I should be extremely gratified if he could get the appointment permanently. Indeed he has some claim to it having been appointed by the President early last Winter Asst. Dy. Adjt. Genl. He did not however receive any notification of his appointment. It was made in the first instance by me upon the recommendation of Genl. Winchester. The misfortune to that Gentleman and the disbanding of the greater part of his army rendered this employment in the Staff unnecessary until the law was repealed under which he was appointed.

I must beg leave also to recommend that Major [John C.] Bartlett be promoted to the rank of Quarter Master Genl. The laborious duties of that department require a higher compensation than he receives and as to his abilities to discharge them I should not hesitate to prefer him to any other. Mr. [James] Brown of Orleans and Mr. [Henry] Clay of Kenty, are both intimately acquainted with him.

The 24th Regt. arrived here last Evening. It is much reduced by sickness, the reports this morning make only 314 rank and file present fit for duty.

I have the honor to be with great Respect
Sir Your Humble Servt.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

The Honble JOHN ARMSTRONG Esq. *Secretary of War,*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT June 9th, 1813

Har. Pa. 76

SIR:

General [Benjamin] Howard and Governor [Ninian] Edwards urge the necessity of more troops in that quarter and there being no other disposable force for that purpose at this time, the President directs that you order Colonel [R. M.] Johnson with his Regiment of mounted Volunteers directly to Kaskaskias to report to General Howard.

Major General HARRISON

HARRISON TO R. M. JOHNSON

Head Quarters FRANKLINTON 11th June, 1813

Har. Pa. 67-72

DEAR SIR:

Your letters of the 4th and 5th Inst. were received yesterday I inclose you a copy of a letter which came to hand last evening giving an account of the glorious success of our army on Lake Ontario and of the departure of the forces which defended Malden to the assistance of their defeated brethren below. Never was a more glorious opportunity offered to make a brilliant stroke in the direction of Malden as it is ascertained from the accounts brought by all the Kentucky prisoners that its Indian defenders had dispersed immediately after returning from the seige of Fort Meigs. Unfortunately my Infantry is not in a situation to make a movement which is calculated to hold the ground that we should occupy.

Nothing therefore can be done but by way of *Coup De Main.* Your situation is eminently calculated to make one against Brownstown or any other point in the neighbourhood of it which from the information you may receive you may think yourself able to attack with success.

I send the bearer to you. Mr. McClusky [Col. James McClosky] who is well acquainted with the Countries around Detroit and who will be able to give you every necessary information with respect to its Topography.

In making the attempt above suggested it is impossible that I can give you any other than general instructions for the Government of your conduct. Your course in other respects

must be governed by Circumstances as they arise and the information you may receive. Should you have obtained intelligence to induce you to believe that the enemy are still in considerable force at or near Malden the expedition must be given up. But if no information has been received by you to contradict the opinion entertained of the dispersion of the Indians and the departure of the British Troops for the Lower part of Upper Canada I would have you take the road formerly recommended to you, leading to the River Raisin and proceed along it to the exterior settlements on untill you shall obtain information that can be relied on of the situation of the enemy. If it should be such as to promise success to an attack upon Brownstown or any other of the Enemies Establishment in that direction you will immediately make it. If otherwise you will return to Fort Winchester or to Fort Meigs as you may think proper.

You must constantly have in mind that a partial success will be much better than to run any considerable risk to obtain a greater. Your Corps being however finely mounted your movements may be so rapid as to allow you to make your stroke and escape pursuit. Unless the enemy should be embodied to an amount greatly superior to your force.

The great danger lies in the inattention, (so customary with Militia) of your officers and men, to those measures which are necessary to guard against surprise and the confidence and rashness with which a first success is so apt to inspire our back-woods-men. I rely upon your authority and exertions to guard you against the effects of a disposition which has already proved so false. When you make an attack let your plan be fairly and distinctly formed and see that your principal officers well understand it as must every subordinate one the part he is to act. Assure all your men that those who distinguish themselves be their station what it may, shall be properly noticed in my communication to the President. On the contrary those who, by their disobedience or want of attention to the orders they may receive, may endanger the corps or prevent its success shall be publicly and everlastingly disgraced. Your men must be particularly cautioned against shouting or firing upon their approach to the enemy until ordered to do so. An imprudence of this kind enabled many of the Indians to escape Col. [James] Campbell at the Missis-

sinway Towns and discovered to Genl [Henry] Proctor the advance of Col. [William] Dudley against his Batteries some time before he would otherwise have known it. To prevent a similar occurence you are hereby positively ordered to direct the officers to cause the first man who offends in this particular to be shot down. The lives of hundreds must not be jeopardized by the folly or villany of a few individuals.

I am sorry that the provisions and stores sent from St. Mary's have been stoped at Fort Wayne. If the river is sufficiently high, I hope you will use the authority vested in you to order the Boats to proceed unless there is a probability of their being taken by the enemy.

A detachment has been sent up from Fort Meigs to Fort Winchester to bring down the Boats that are there. If they have not all left the latter they can be sent down under the escort of the Kentucky Militia company which was sent there from Fort McArthur. In the deficiency of men at Amanda the Company last spoken of should have been sent up to bring down the ballance of the stores and provisions.

I shall set out in a day or two for the margin of the Lake, your letters may be sent to Camp Meigs and if I am not there to Lower Sandusky. Inform the people at the River Raisin that I shall soon be there with an army to protect them, and that it is my intention to establish a considerable post there in my advance from Fort Meigs.

I am with Regard Sir Your humble Servant

(Signed) WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Col. R. M. JOHNSON *Com. a Regt of Mounted Infantry*

A true Copy JOHN O'FALLON *Aid de Camp*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

Head Quarters FRANKLINTON 11th, June 1813

Har. Pa. 73-77

SIR:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favors of the 19th and 21st Ult. [see above]

The approbation bestowed by the President upon my own and the conduct of the troops employed in the defence of Fort Meigs, is highly flatering, and will prove a great stimulus to future exertions.

I received last evening a letter from the Adjutant General of Genl. [Henry] Dearborn's army, conveying the glorious intelligence of the taking of Fort George and the repulsing the enemy in their attack upon Sacketts Harbor. Col. [Winfield] Scott also states that it was understood that Genl. [Henry] Proctor had gone down with his force to the assistance of Genl. Vincent and that he supposes the junction would take place near Lake Simcoe. This, must however, be a mistake, If Proctor has taken that direction, he must have gone down Lake Erie as far as Long Point, from which a settlement and road extends to that, leading from Sandwich up the Thames to York but whatever route he may have taken, his absence from Malden affords an opportunity for the commencement of operations in that direction, which I am unable to profit by, in any other way, than by a *Coup De Main* with the mounted force under Col. Johnson.

The Col. left St. Mary's on the 5th inst. with seven hundred men for Fort Wayne, from whence he was to get into the road leading from the St. Joseph's river to the river Raisin and act as circumstances might authorize against the enemy, and then proceed to Fort Winchester.

I have this morning dispatched Mr. McCloskey an intelligent young man, who is well acquainted with the country, with instructions of which the enclosed is a copy. [see above] I am convinced that an opportunity of making a very brilliant stroke will be offered him, there is nothing to be dreaded but the Col.'s inexperience and, the want of discipline amongst his men; for zeal, activity, and bravery, his corps is exceeded by none. My presence is indispensibly required here or I should have taken this command myself.

The horses of Col. [James V.] Ball's squadron suffered so much in the siege of Fort Meigs that they are not yet fit for service, but will be so in a short time.

Capt. [James R.] Butler of the twelve months Vol. and Lt. [David] Gwynn of the 19th Regt arrived here the day before yesterday from Fort Meigs; from them and the letters brought by them, I learn that the troops at that post had been reduced by sickness to five hundred effectives. The prevalent diseases were the dysentary, and measles, the former brought on by exposure during the siege, seized almost every individual. There were however, but few deaths, and much the greater

portion of the sick were convalescent and but few new cases. A drove of fine fat Beeves which reached the fort some days ago, will add greatly to their recovery.

Every exertion is making to push on the new raised troops towards the Lake, the twenty-fourth Regt. would have marched tomorrow, but for a heavy rain, which fell last night, and which has rendered the creeks impassible, I shall go with it or follow soon after.

Gen. [Duncan] McArthur, [Lewis] Cass, and [James] Findley have recommended to you a Mr. [Simon Zelotus] Watson for the appointment of topographical engineer to this army, from what I have seen and heard of him he appears to be qualified for the appointment and perhaps better acquainted with Canada than any other person in the United States.

I have the Honor to be With Great Respect Sir

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Honble. JOHN ARMSTRONG Esq. *Secretary of war*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT June 14th 1813

Har. Pa. 77

SIR:

The commissions may be bestowed as you propose in your letter of the 5th instant. My preceding letters have authorized you to assemble the troops where you may think best—keeping in view their prompt embarkation when the vessels shall be ready for action. The clothing for the three new regiments has been long since on the road for Chilicothe and Newport.

The order given for issuing half a ration per man extra, may have been justified by the circumstances of the siege, but ought to have terminated with these.

I have not received the list of prisoners of war who have enlisted. There is on the subject of exchanges, an obstinacy and insolence on the part of Sir Geo. Prevost which must be corrected.

It would be of much importance to have circulated among the hostile tribes of Indians the late occurrences on Lake Ontario and Niagara River. How could this be done? The enemy

will no doubt endeavor to keep these poor wretches in the dark.

The whole number of Deputy commissaries of Ordnance authorized by law is four. I have proposed to Congress to add five others. This proposition if adopted, will give room for Mr. [Robert D.] Richardson.

Major General HARRISON

HARRISON TO JOHN H. PIATT

Head Quarters FRANKLINTON June 18th 1813

Har. Pa. 102

SIR:

You will superintend the issues and safe keeping of all the provisons belonging to the United States except those at Camp Meigs, the two Sanduskys, Delaware, Franklinton, Chilicothe and those to the eastward of the Scioto.

The Contractors are not to be suffered to issue at any of those places where the public have provisions.

Every possible exertion is to be made, to have the provisions from Fort Wayne, Fort Winchester and Amanda taken to the Rapids, and that at Lorimie's taken to St. Marys.[1]

I am Respy. Yr. Humble Servant.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

JOHN H. PIATT *Dy. Commng. Genl.*

HARRISON TO B. G. ORR

Head Quarters, FRANKLINTON, June 20, 1813

Am. Sta. Pa. Mil. Affairs I, 645

SIR:

I am directed, by the Secretary of War, to complete the arrangements with you for turning over to you all the provisions which have been purchased on the public account.

1. *From the North West.* Major gen. Harrison was at Franklinton, June 16. Col. Anderson with a regiment of regulars, 800 strong, had arrived there from Tennessee, where they were recruited. We may look for offensive operations in a few days. The governor of Ohio has invited his fellow-citizens to join gen. Harrison in a short tour of duty in the territory of Michigan and district of Malden, against their British enemies and their ferocious allies, that peace may rest on their borders. They are to be mounted.

A regiment of 12 months men, raised in Kentucky, and commanded by Col. [Thomas Deye] Owings, were to march to join Gen. Harrison about the 24th of June.

The death of gen. Green Clay, of Kentucky, at Fort Meigs, has been announced. We are happy to say the report is not true. He had been ill, but was convalescent.

Niles' Register IV, 289

It is necessary, therefore, that you should immediately meet me at Lower Sandusky, in order that the business may be finished as soon as possible. I have directed that no issues of provisions be made, on your account, at any of the posts where the public have them. There is, I imagine, full as much provisions on hand, the property of the United States, as will be wanted for the campaign some fresh beef excepted.

I am, etc.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

B. G. ORR, *Contractor to the Eight Military District*

GREEN CLAY TO HARRISON

CAMP MEIGS, June 20th, 1813

Har. Pa. 78-81

DEAR SIR:

Two men, one a Frenchman and the other a private in the late Col. [William] Dudley's regiment have just arrived from Detroit and from whom we have the important intelligence that the enemy contemplates another attack upon this Garrison.

The Frenchman states "that the Indians had for some time been urging Genl. Proctor to renew the attack. A council of war was held a few days since when it was determined to renew the attack on Fort Meigs, and the combined forces were to set out on this day or tomorrow at furthest with that view.

From every information the Indians would be about 4,000 strong with the expectation of an additional reinforcement of perhaps as many more. The British Regulars (about 1600 strong) from fort George and Fort Erie, had been sent for and were expected at Malden.

The Canadian Militia had been paraded on the 4th June (the Kings birth day) and after a speech by the Genl had been ordered to yield up their arms being deemed unworthy his majesty's service.

Tecumseh was encamped on the River Rouge near its mouth.

The Prisoner, Thomas Law of Capt. Kerrs Company Kentucky Militia, states "on the 5th May he was taken prisoner by the Indians and carried about 150 miles above Detroit to the Sajuna [Saginaw] Tribe where he remained with two other Prisoners untill a few days past when all three attempted their escape.

They were discovered by the Indians fired on and scattered

but neither killed. He then made his way good to the neighbourhood of Detroit when he fell in with the Frenchmen whose statement precedes and who agreed to accompany him to this place."

When at a small distance from Detroit he was met or overtaken by a large portly man of fair complextion who tole him to hurry on to this place with all possible expedition and inform the Commanding officer there that this place would be again besieged. The enemy would consist of about 400 Indians 15 or 1600 regulars (a reenforcement just arrived at Malden) and the whole regular force from that post, and that the enemy would set out by Monday—tomorrow for this place.

He also states that previous to his leaving the Indians nearly all the warriors from the Saguna tribes had left their Towns for Detroit.

That the person who gave him this information states as his opinion that the enemy intended an attack on the post in the rear of this and that his opinion was founded on information secured from a squaw.

The officers of the garrison have been generally consulted an they give the fullest confidence to the belief that the enemy contemplate another attack on this Fort nor do I hesitate to join in the belief.

The importance of this communication needs no comment from me.

We shall be prepared to give our enemy a warm reception come when they will. I have every confidence in your exertions and feel that it is through you this army looks for triumphs over its enemies.

I have sent express on different routes and to different posts to meet you and enclosed copies of this communication to Gov. Meigs and Shelby. I have taken the liberty to order Colo. [R. M.] Johnson's regiment of mounted men from Fort Winchester to this place immediately.

By different detachment sent from this place we have received from Fort Winchester about 1200 barrels flour including that escorted by Ensign Gray from Amanda.

I am with high consideration and respect your Humble Servt

(Signed) GREEN CLAY

His Excellency Major Genl. WILLIAM H. HARRISON

A True Copy JOHN O'FALLON *Aid de Camp*

HARRISON TO B. G. ORR

Head Quarters, FRANKLINTON, June 22, 1813

Am. Sta. Pa. Mil. Affairs I, 645

SIR:

Your letter of this date is now before me; the proposition contained in it cannot be acceded to. The only arrangement which I think myself authorized to make, is that of delivering over to you all the public provisions, of every description, which have been purchased for the army, and taking your receipt for it, in the manner prescribed by the Secretary of War's instructions. I must observe, also, that most of the provisions are placed in situations where it was never intended they should be used; nor can I say how far the United States will be bound to pay for the transportation of it. This question will remain for the determination of the Secretary of War. I have also to inform you that a contract exists and is now in operation for transporting the provisions which are at Norton and Upper Sandusky to Lower Sandusky. The public teams are also engaged in this business. Should it be determined that the contractors are to pay the expense of transportation, all that is transported after this day will of course be charged to them. I cannot give you a correct statement of the provisions we have on hand; it is, however, sufficient to serve the whole of the troops to be employed within this district, and in the operations against Detroit and Malden, at least, until the first of December, next.

I am, very respectfully, your humble servant,

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

HARRISON TO GOVERNOR MEIGS

Head-quarters, FRANKLINTON June 23d, 1813

Niles' Register IV, 305

DEAR SIR:

An express has just arrived from camp Meigs, bringing information that an army of British and Indians were about to make another attack upon that place. I think it probable that fort Meigs is not the object, but that the attack will be upon Lower Sandusky, Cleveland or Erie. I shall set out early in the morning for Sandusky, and will keep you constantly apprised of the events passing in that direction. I am your friend,

WM. H. HARRISON

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 64)

(Head Quarters) FRANKLINTON, June 23, 1813

Har. Pa. 83

SIR:

The letter from Genl. [Green] Clay of which the enclosed is a copy was received by an express this moment arrived. [see June 20 above]

The five companies of the 24th Regt. are between Upper and Lower Sandusky, one hundred and forty of the 26th Regt. and about sixty of the seventeenth, are at this place, about fifty of the latter are on the march from Cincinnati.

The recruits of the 26th when assembled will amount to about three hundred, one fourth of them, are however, prisoners of War.

I send this through to meet the mail at Zanesville. I have sent an express to Col. [R. M.] Johnson, directing him, if possible to get into Fort Meigs, should he be unable to do so he will proceed to join the troop on the road from this to Camp. Meigs. I have sent an express to inform Major [Thomas J.] Jessup and Capt. [Oliver H.] Perry of the navy of the movements of the enemy.

I shall set out tomorrow myself for Sandusky.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

The Hon. JOHN ARMSTRONG *Secretary of War.*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 65)

Head Quarters FRANKLINTON 23rd June 1813

Har. Pa. 84, 85

SIR:

Having understood that insinuations had been made to the prejudice of Col. [James] Morrison late Dy. Qr, Genl. of the North Western army whilst acting in that capacity, justice to that Gentleman induces me to declare that I am fully pursuaded that no man in the U. States could have performed the duties of that Department with more zeal, fidelity and ability than did that Gentleman. Such were his arrangements that in despite of the most unfavorale winter perhaps that has ever been known in the Western Country for such operations, the Army would have been supplied with provisions in its advance

to Malden. The great expenses of his Department were early foreseen and stated by him to the Secretary of War, and although it cannot be denied that great abuses have been practiced by many of the inferior Agents of the Department, they were unavoidable from the necessity that existed of employing men for whose character he was obliged to rely upon the information of others.

I have the honor to be with great respect
Sir Your Obedient Servt.
WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

The honble JOHN ARMSTRONG Esq. *Secretary of War*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 66)

Headquarters FRANKLINTON, 24th June 1813

Har. Pa. 85-90

SIR:

I wrote to you last night hastily encloseing a copy of a letter just received from Gen. [Green] Clay. I think it most probable that the enemy will attack some other point than Fort Meigs; their great objects are to get provisions and destroy our vessels before they are ready for service.

There are at Lower Sandusky about five hundred barrels of flour I sent Col. [Samuel] Wells off last evening to that post with directions to take command of it and should the British approach it in force to destroy the stores and fort and retire towards Upper Sandusky with the Garrison which is composed entirely of mutinous militia. The post indeed could not be defended against Heavy artillery which could be brought by water to the spot. Provisions being necessary to the enemy, and our supplies so large, that it appears to me to be our policy to destroy any of our magazines rather than run any great risque of having them taken.

I have directed Col. [William P.] Anderson to halt between Upper and Lower Sandusky and fortify his camp. I shall reach him tomorrow night. The troops that are coming on in detachments from the recruiting rendezvous have been ordered to follow in that way.

Mr. [Ben. G.] Orr the contractor declines taking the public provisions untill he can see you for which purpose he sets out this morning for Washington, he complains of the want of

funds and asserts that he has purchased or left money to purchase a considerable quanity of provisions at Cleveland, this he ought not to have done, at least not to a greater amount than for the temporary supply of Cleveland and Lower Sandusky as he knew of the immense supplies we had on our hands.

I enclose herewith a statement of the provisions now on hand at Fort Meiges.

I have the honor to be with great
respect your Obedient Servant
WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Hon. JOHN ARMSTRONG Esq. *Secretary of War*

Report of provisions remaining at different posts on the Center and Left wing of the N. W. Army the purchases of John H. Piatt Depy. Purchasing Commissary on the 24th day of June 1813.

Name of Post	Bbl. Flour	Bbl. Biscuit	Bbl. Whiskey	Bbl. Salt	Bbl. Pork	Pounds Bacon	Boxes Soap	Boxes Candy	
Ft. Winchester..	1,209	.....	247	119	13	20,000	10	18	Part of the flour damaged being sunk in the river after leaving Amanda and St. Marys and for the want of proper care after it arrived at Ft. Winchester.
Ft. Jennings.....	26	.....	3½	15	.....	600	.....	1	Good ord.
Amanda.....	400	20	69	45	.....	110,000	14	23	"
St. Marys.....	106	83	9	½	.....	8,000	3	6	"
Loramies.....	1,590	.....	153	.....	15	.....	5	5	"
Greenville.....	.....	90	.....	.....	.....	18,360	.....	.....	"
Piqua.....	332	.....	28	6	.....	1,200	8	4	"
Dayton.....	163	.....	25	3	.....	4,000	6	4	"
Ft. Findley.....	60		30	50	.....	500	28	.....	"
Ft. McArthur....	536		43	14	.....	.....	21	12	"
	3,422	193	607½	252½	28	162,660	95	73	Total Amt

At all the above mentioned Posts I have appointed issuing commissaries by Order of Major Genl. William H. Harrison at thirty dollars per month who will continue to issue till arrangements are made for the contractors to receive the public provisions at those posts.

JOHN H. PIATT

JOHN H. PIATT TO HARRISON

CINCINNATI, June 30, 1813

Am. State Papers Military Affairs, 653

DEAR SIR:

Having made the necessary arrangements, I returned to this place on the 28th, and shall take every possible care to have the provisions in my charge taken care of, and issued in the proper manner. I have now ready two hundred and twenty-five beeves, taken up at Manary's block-house, which shall be forwarded whenever your excellency thinks proper to give the order. Your family are in good health.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant, JOHN H. PIATT

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 68)

Head Quarters LOWER SANDUSKY July 2nd 1813

Har. Pa. 91-94

SIR:

I did myself the honor to write to you on the 23rd Ult. [see above] from Franklinton communicating the information I had received from Fort Meigs and my intention of setting out for that post the next day. I overtook the 24th Regt about 20 miles below upper Sandusky in the evening of the 26th and having selected the men who were able to make a forced march to the amount of 300 I proceeded with all possible expedition and on the evening of the 28th reached Fort Meigs. I found that Col [R. M.] Johnson's Mounted Inft. had been there some days. As Genl [Green] Clay could give no fresh information of the movements and designs of the enemy I directed Col. Johnson to despatch a select party of men to the river Raisin to procure it. The Colonel took command of the party and returned to Fort Meiges the night before last, bringing with him two Frenchmen one of them a citizen of the Michigan Territory the other a British Subject. The Colonel visited all the inhabited Houses at the River Raisin.

The information derived from all of them correspond and among them was Col. [Francis] Navarre a Militia officer of Respectability. They had heard of no reinforcement of British Troops arriving at Maldon nor any considerable accession

of Indians since the seige of Fort Meigs. The Indians had pressed Genl. Proctor to make another attack upon Fort Meigs and was much disatisfied with his putting them off. They at length heard of the progress of the war below and the taking of Fort George through a Mr. Kinsey an Indian trader [John H. Kinzie, founder of Chicago]. Proctor caused Kinsey to be seized, the Indians demanded and obtained his release, and he had held councils, the proceedings of which were kept secret from the British. Co. Navarre also informed Col. Johnson that one hundred warriors principally of the Ottawa tribe had passed the River Raison in Boats and canoes to take scalps in the vicinity of this place.

As there was no object of importance to keep me longer at Fort Meigs I set out from thence yesterday with an escort of Col. Johnson Regt. and came to this place in the hope of meeting with Col. [James V.] Ball's squadron with which and the mounted riflemen I brought with me I expected to defeat any attempt of the Indians above mentioned. Unluckily they had made a stroke the day before killing at a farmhouse near this place 3 men a woman and two children. They returned towards Fort Meigs and I am in hopes that Col. Johnson, whom I ordered to follow me will meet with them.

Col. [James V.] Ball has not arrived but will be here in a few hours. His destination is Cleveland. I have ordered there also, all the recruits enlisted for the 27th Regt in the Connecticut Reserve and shall proceed there myself tomorrow.

Upon the arrival of Col. Johnson at Fort Wayne he deemed it proper to follow some Indians, that had killed three men in a Boat descending the St. Marys, as far as the Potawatimie Town or the St. Josephs of Lake Michigan. He saw several small parties of Indians but was unable to come up with them. The Towns were destroyed by a Detachment which I sent from Fort Wayne last September and have not since been rebuilt. The colonel returned to Fort Wayne and from thence descended to Fort Winchester where he was preparing to execute my order for an attack upon Brownstown when he received a letter from Gen. Clay requiring him to repair to Fort Meigs. His horses are too much reduced to undertake the proposed enterprise against Brownstown. I have therefore directed him to go to Huron River to recruit them. The enemy are so illy supplied with provisions as to justify very con-

siderable risk to obtain them. Should they reduce Fort Wayne or Fort Winchester what they might obtain at those places will be of little services to them as they cannot take it off. From this place Huron or Cleveland it could be easily carried to Malden. At the two places there is a considerable quantity of flour the property of Individuals.

The position which Col. Johnson will occupy will enable him to reinforce the troops at this place or Cleveland with great facility.

The monthly Returns from the several posts under my command having not reached Fort Meigs till a few days before my arrival there, it is not in my power at present to forward a Genl. Return, But have left Capt. [James R.] Butler the Actg. Asst. Adj. Genl. at Fort Meigs to prepare one from there which will be forwarded as soon as completed.

I have the Honor to be with Great Respect Sir
Your Humble Servt.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Hon. Gen. ARMSTRONG. *Secty. of War*

R. M. JOHNSON TO HARRISON

Camp at LOWER SANDUSKY,
July 4th, 1813

McAfee, *History, 310*

DEAR SIR—

I arrived at this place last evening with a part of the mounted regiment, after two days march from camp Meigs, leaving two companies four miles in the rear, who were unable to reach this place; besides about twenty horses left on the way, which I am in hopes will be able to get back to camp Meigs or come to this place in a few days, where we can keep them together and recruit them. Having been in the most active service for upwards of forty days, and having travelled upwards of 700 miles, much of it forced marching, it is natural to conclude that most of the horses are weak; and we feel great pleasure, and obligations to you, in finding your arrangements such as to enable us to recruit the horses of the regiment. To be ready to move with you, to Detroit and Canada, against the enemies of our country, is the first wish of our hearts. Two great objects induced us to come—first, to be at the regaining of our own territory and Detroit, and at the taking of Malden and secondly to serve under an officer

in whom we have confidence. We could not have engaged in the service without such a prospect, when we recollected what disasters have attened us for the want of good generals. We did not want to serve under cowards, drunkards, old grannies, nor traitors, but under one who had proved himself to be wise, prudent and brave. The officers of the mounted regiment had some idea of addressing you on their anxiety to be a part of your army in the campaign against Canada, and of giving you a statement of the importance of having an opportunity to make the regiment efficient for such a campaign by recruiting their horses. As to the men they are active, healthy and fond of service. This morning I have sent out 100 on foot to scour the surrounding country; and wherever we are we wish continual service. Our regiment is about 900 strong when all together. I have left 100 at Defiance to regain some lost horses, and to guard that frontier.

You have not witnessed the opposition I encountered in raising the regiment. Every personal enemy, every traitor and tory, and your enemies, all combined—but in vain. Nothing but the hurry which attended our march prevented me from having 1500 men. Nothing but the importance of the service, which I thought we could render, would have justified my absence from the present catch penny congress. (The great object of the session was to raise a revenue) My enemies, your enemies, the enemies of our cause, would exult if the mounted regiment should from any cause, be unable to carry a strong arm against the savages and British, when you strike the grand blow.

It is with much diffidence I write you anything touching military matters; but the desires of my soul and the situation of the regiment, have induced me thus freely and confidentially to express myself. In the morning we shall leave this place for Huron, ready to receive your orders, which will always be cheerfully executed at every hazard.

Your obedient servant

RD. M. JOHNSON

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

No 70

Head Quarters CLEVELAND July 6th, 1813

Har. Pa. 95, 96

SIR:

I arrived here at 9 o'clock this morning. I found Major

[Thomas S.] Jessup with about 170 effective men, 80 of which are of the Artillery Corps viz. Capt. [Stanton] Sholes company of the 2nd Regiment and the small detachment that was taken with Capt. [Samuel] Price.

I have had only verbal accounts of the progress of our naval armament at Erie towards completion. A letter from Capt. [Oliver Hazard] Perry unfortunately passed me on the way hither and will not arrive until late this evening. I am informed, however that the vessels are equipped and waiting only for their crews. It is highly desirable that they should proceed up the Lake as soon as possible. By taking possession of the Harbour at the Bass Islands they would oblige the ships of the enemy to confine themselves to Malden or risk a battle in the present deficient state of their crews. Is it not indeed the intention of the Government to bring to speedy issue the contest for the naval superiority upon this lake?

In a former letter you did me the honor to inform me that the deficiency in the regular troops contemplated to be employed under my command, was to be made up with militia. From whence are these Militia to come? and by whom called into service? They could be furnished with most convenience and marched to the Lake much sooner from the upper counties of Pennsylvania and Virgina, than from Kentucky or even from this state. There will be no difficulty in getting the Kentucky Militia now in service to cross the Lake, nor am I apprehensive that any will exist with those which may be taken from the other states.

I have the honor to be with great respect and consideration Your

Humble Servant

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Honble. J. ARMSTRONG Esq. *Secretary of War*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

No 71

Head Quarters CLEVELAND July, 9th, 1813

Har. Pa. 97-99

SIR:

I had not the honor of receiving your letter of the 9th of June, [see above] until the evening before last, it had been, by a blunder of the post master at Chilicothe sent to Cin-

cinatti; the moment I received it, I dispatched a special express to Col. [R. M.] Johnson directing him to proceed immediately to Kaskaskias. I have left to him the choice of the two routes, Vis, by Forts Winchester and Wayne and down the south side of the Wabash to Vincennes, or that by U. Sandusky, Fort McArthur, St. Marys, Greenville. The old Delaware towns, or White river, Ft. Harrison and Vincennes.

I am still of opinion that the fears entertained of an invasion of the Illinois and Missouri Territories, by any considerable force, are entirely groundless. All the accounts lately received from Malden and Detroit, agree as to the daily expectation of the arrival of [Robert] Dixon with a further reinforcement of northern and Western Indians.

I have as yet received no information from Capt. [Oliver H.] Perry. My anxiety to know the precise situation of our naval armament, has induced me to dispatch an officer to Erie.

A company of the 27th Regt. will probably arrive here this evening, Major [Robert] Morrison who was sent by Genl. [Lewis] Cass to command the two companies ordered here, arrived a few days ago. I am sorry to find that he, as well as Maj. [Jeremiah R.] Munson the other Major of the Regiment are prisoners of war, as I am told is the case with several of the other officers, and a number of the men. It is much to be regreted that one of those regiments had not been allotted to Tennessee, or the upper parts of Virginia and Pensylvania.

Major [Andrew Hunter] Holmes has arrived at this place.

I have the Honor to be With great respect Sir,

Your Humble Servant

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

The Hon. JOHN ARMSTRONG Esq. *Secretary of War*

N. B. Lt. [William O.] Winston's resignation is accepted to take effect this day.

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No 72)

Head Quarters CLEVELAND 9th July 1813

Har. Pa. 100

SIR:

The uncommon sickness of the Troops for two months past and the great waste of Hospital stores and medicines by the Militia Surgeons and mates at the small posts render it nec-

essary that a supply should be forwarded as soon as possible. I do myself the Honor to enclose a list of such as will be immediately wanted, furnished by Dr. [Hugh] Stanard.

I have written to the Dp. Qr. Master Genl. at Pittsburgh to send on by land to this place, a few articles of groceries and some muslins. Permit me to request that orders be given for all the liquor destined for the Hospital department to have a dry Barrell put over that which contains them. Experience has long since convinced all those in the Western country who are desirous of having their Liquors secured from plunder and adulteration, that it is the only way of affecting it.

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir Yr. Humble Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble JOHN ARMSTRONG Esqr. *Secretary of War*

The following is a list of Medicine and Hospital Stores which will be immediately wanting.

Fort Meigs, June 30, 1813

Peruvian Bark (in powder)	50 lb.	Blisting Ointment	20 lb.
Opium	10 lb.	Bees Wax	20 lb.
Camphor	10 lb.	Muriated Acid	4 lb.
Calomel	5 lb.	Sulphuric Acid	4 lb.
Corrosive Sublimate	2 lb.	Nitric do	4 lb.
Tartar Emetic	2 lb.	Vials	5 gross
Gambage	2 lb.	Instruments—	
Jalap	10 lb.	Amputation	3 setts
Ipecauanto	17 lb.	trepanning	3 do
Rheubarb (in powder)	10 lb.	Pocket	3 do
Kino	15 lb.	Cases Scalpels	No. 6
Colombo (in powder)	20 lb.	Lancets	3 doz.
Nitre Crude	20 lb.	Splints	12 setts
" Sweet Spirits	40 lb.	Sponge	7 lb.
Glaubers Salts	50 lb.	Muslin	1000 yds.
Prepared Chalk	20 lb.	Wine	200 gals.
Caster Oil	12 gal.	Brandy or Rum	100 do
Olive Do	5 "	Vinegar	200 "
Gum Arabic	20 lb.	Molasses	200 "
Allume	5 "	Coffee	300 lb.
Acquous	20 lb.	Hyson Tea	50 lb.
Adhesive plaster	20 lb.	Rice	5 barrels
Barley	2 barl.	Sugar	6 "
Chocolate	300 lb.	Sago	50 lb.
Tapioca	50 lb.		

H. Stanard
Hospital Surg. Mate.

R. M. JOHNSON TO HARRISON

Camp MOUTH HURON, OHIO, July 9th 1813 On Lake Erie

Har. Pa. 103-108

DR. SIR:

The absence of the Lt. Cols. and 2nd Major and the indisposition of Major [Duval] Payne prevents me from waiting upon you personally in consequence of the favor I have just received from you. You have the evidence of the resolution and willingness of the Mo. Regt. to do their duty and what is here to be said is predicated upon the situation of the Mo. Regiment. I have been afraid to distress the officers and men of this Regt. with a communication of the contents of yours, untill I can again hear from you; after faithfully stating facts which cannot be entirely known to you much less could the President know them on the 9th June when he gave an order to the War Dept. to direct the march of this Regt. to Kaskaskias. I put wholly out of the question the desire of the men to serve under you personally and the anxiety of assisting in retaking our lost territory and seeing Malden fall. These desires and anxieties, however to be indulged among friends in social life, must not be mentioned against a military order.

Inability to comply with the order to any advantage to the Country or to the honor of the Corps is alone taken as the ground for a wish to remain on this station—the difficulty does not exist in your mind, as you express a regret of the necessity of a separation from your command. the order of the President alone will create the doubt, if any, what course ought to be pursued. I only in my turn regret that I had not the speed of an arrow to give him the statement I am now making out for you. That great and good man would not hesitate one second to comply with my reasonable wishes With the opportunity now offered of feeding our horses on grain and good grass ten days is the earliest possible period that the Regiment could take up the line of march to any distant point or attempt with any advantage a forced march a shorter distance. After which, commencing the march, say to Kaskaskias at least 400 miles or more the route we should have to go, the Regt. could not average more than 15 miles per day, leaving out the necessity that would occasionally occur to pre-

vent marching every day. Say 30 days to travel to Kaskaskias It would then require at least 15 or 20 days upon grain and forage to fit our horses for active service upon the frontiers, or into the enemies country. The Regt. would then have been in service 110 days 50 days having elapsed leaving 20 days to complete the term of service for which they engaged, unless some extraordinary occurrences should make it indispensible to remain longer. But this is not all; under these circumstances we should not get to Kaskaskia more than 400 horses, more especially if I leave behind Capt. [Duval] Payne's Company which I am disposed and willing to do if left to me. This Sir, is a Regt. for which I stand pledged in the hour of peril, will be destroyed and rendered totally useless to their beloved country, to say nothing of the prospects which now opens to them in this quarter of usefulness of glory and honor. But this is not the only contrast. By remaining at Huron ten or 15 days feeding our Horses on grain and guarding the important frontier by scouting parties daily with an opportunity of feeding our Horses one or two days at Lower Sandusky on grain on our returning the same opportunity of five days at Camp Meigs and the grain is all purchased and the Mounted Regt. can transport it to those places then and in that case I can carry to Raison, Brownstown, Detroit, Malden and its vicinity under forced marching or otherwise between 800 and 900 effective men. So effective that they shall on all occasions drive superior numbers of the enemy. In this situation if our horses should fail we can again give them rest while we act as Infantry corps or should we be dismissed having performed our duty and tour our horses could be driven to 10 or 15 miles a day homewards without loss to indigent and patriotic men or the public at this moment, in lost and disabled horses. I have more than 100 dismounted. Arrangements have been made by new purchases &c. to keep up the strength of the Regt. leaving a few men to search for lost Horses at different points and to take care of the Invalid horses, which can be saved alone by this plan. Strange as this may appear I have in nothing exagerated. If the officers collect should be called upon, a statement more unfavourable would be given. In the revolving seasons of 20 years perhaps no spring and summer could have been so unfavourable

for the horses of a Mo. Regt., notwithstanding which we avoided no duty; Indeed we think we have done much in frustrating the savages in their designs against any part of our extensive frontier. To Fort Wayne from the point of our rendezvous 300 miles. Our Circuit to Lake Michigan about 200 miles, making 500. To Camp Meigs from Fort Wayne 100 making 600 miles. To River Raison and back 60 miles to this place 70 miles making total of at least 730 miles and this is the 50th day since we took up our line of march; and leaving at these different points parts of the Regt. to guard and act as reconnoitring parties to be concentrated when ordered. Altho it would be improper for one in my situation to say anything that would seem to insinuate that any order from a superior might be superceded without injurious consequences still it is not improper to express some consolation in a Belief from recent circumstances and information that no great body of Indians are embodied upon the Frontiers of Indiana and Illinois &c. but that they still remain in the circle of Brownstown, Malden &c. except those who have scattered off into small parties from disaffection to the cause of G. Britain and I may also add that before this Regiment could reach Kaskaskias I hope the people there will be rendered still more secure by your movements and success here. If the Regt. had been destined to Kaskaskias in the first Instance, no service would have been more acceptable, except a wish to be attached to this part of the N. W. Army. But no hesitation would have been manifested. But imperious circumstances, made it highly important that we should take the route to Fort Wayne, then to this place and such is the situation of the Regt. at present as represented. I hope you will concur with me in seeing the evident propriety and equally evident necessity of our remaining on this station where the Regiment can be of some service to the sacred cause in which we are all engaged upon this statment Dear General I wish you to detain us on this station, and send this as a part of the Reasons why you have done so or leave to me the entire responsibility of remaining or of marching to Kaskaskias under existing circumstances, not known to the President when he gave the order. If one or the other should not be in your power, I shall look back with little pleasure

to the day the Regiment was ordered to take up arms to defend the rights and honor of the U. States, as their usefulness from this time must be destroyed when the brightest prospects opened to their view.

Your friend and servt.

R. M. JOHNSON *Col. K. M. V.*

Genl. WM. H. HARRISON

N. B. I wish to have a personal interview if necessary.

A True Copy

JOHN O'FALLON *Aid de Camp*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No 73)

Head Quarters CLEAVELAND 12th July 1813

Har. Pa. 108-110

SIR:

I have the honor to enclose you a copy of a letter from Col. [R. M.] Johnson [July 9 above] from the tenor of this letter and the information I have received from other sources I am inclined to believe that the Col. will find it difficult to enforce obedience to the order for marching to the Illinois Territory. I have directed him to proceed with all whose horses are fit for service and leave the rest to follow.

By a private letter to a Gentleman here from his friend in Erie received last night we are informed that our vessels are nearly ready to sail, but the Hands to man them have not arrived, and that the probability is that they will not have their compliment before the first of August. I hope and believe however that the writer is mistaken. I wait with anxiety for private information from Capt. Perry. I beg leave to recommend that the vessels be fully manned. The expense of an extra number of seamen will be trifling because they can be dismissed as soon as our command of the Lakes is secured. Indeed it appears to me that a consideration of this kind ought to govern on all our preparations for the reduction of Malden. A single well supported effort will be sufficient. That place once in our possession and the naval superiority acquired, Mackinac and St. Josephs will fall of course, and with them every vestage of Indian war will vanish. A fourth part of the force necessary for the conquest will be sufficient to hold

these posts when they are in our possession. The balance can be disbanded or employed elsewhere.

I hope that Capt. [James R.] Butler may have forewarded before this a general monthly return; he was directed to do so without sending it to me to avoid delay.

With great respect and consideration I have the honor to be Sir your humble Servant

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Genl. JOHN ARMSTRONG *Secretary of War*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT, July 14, 1813

Historical Register III, 86

Orders have been sent to captain Perry to communicate to you the naval movements and to concert with you the necessary co-operations.

Of the militia, you are authorized to take what in your judgment will be necessary. Such of the Kentucky militia as are in service would be better than a new draft. There is (of the Pennsylvania militia) one regiment at Erie armed, equipped, etc. These are subjected to your command. [Extract]

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT July 14th 1813

Har. Pa. 78

SIR

I regret that the Letter ordering Col. [R. M.] Johnson Westward ever reached you. Since the date of that letter, information has been received that the whole story of Dixon and his intention of attacking St. Louis etc. with which Governor Edwards so often alarmed himself and others was without foundation. Believing that the Colonel's expedition toward Brownstown would have put him out of the reach of this order and knowing that your opinion resembled my own in relation to the western combinations of Scioux and Foxes &c. &c. I had hoped that the want of foundation in the story would have reached you before the Colonel's return, and furnished a reason for delaying the execution of the order. Is it too late yet to correct this error? If it be possible it ought to be

done. Johnson's Regiment would be useful in making demonstrations by land while you go by water for protecting the frontier against small desultory attacks.

Major General HARRISON

SECRETARY OF WAR TO MAJOR J. S. SWEARINGEN

WAR DEPARTMENT July 14th 1813

Har. Pa. 79

SIR:

You will forward to lower Sandusky by the way of Cleveland to the order of General Harrison two of the large Regimental Medicine chests which have been deposited at Pittsburg and hospital stores conformably to the inclosed invoice.

Major J[AMES] S[TRODE] SWEARINGEN *D. Q. M. Gr.*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT July 14, 1813

Har. Pa. 80

SIR

The medicines in deposit at Pittsburgh are put up in chests, some of which are very large. One of these or two at most would be quite sufficient for the intended service of the hospital. The quarter master will have orders to forward them and a quantity of hospital stores. During your last campaign a double allowance [not completed]

Major Genl. HARRISON

HARRISON TO GOVERNOR SHELBY

Head Quarters L SANDUSKY 20th July 1813

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book B" 26

MY DEAR SIR

I have this moment received a letter from the Secretary of war in which he authorizes me to call from the neighboring states such numbers of militia as I may deem requisite for the ensuing operation against upper canada. It was originally intended that the Army should consist of regular troops only, but it is now ascertained that the contemplated number cannot be raised. It is indeed late very late to call out militia but still it will be better to do this than enter into operation upon

which so much depends with an inadequate force. I am not uninformed of the present indisposition to the service which begins to prevail in Kentucky and the difficulties which your Excellency, may have to encounter to organize another detachment of militia I believe however it will not be impossible for you to reanimate your patriotic fellow citizens and once more to bring a portion of them to the field, what that portion will be, your own Judgment must determine. I have sent Major [David] Trimble my aid de camp to you to inform you of many circumstances which I have not time nor indeed would I like to commit to paper—send me as many good men as you can conveniently collect or as you may deem proper to call out not less than *four hundred* nor more than *two thousand.* The period has arrived when with a little exertion the task assigned to this section of the union may be finished, and complete tranquility restored to our frontiers. To make this last effort why not, my dear sir, come in person, you would not object to a command that would be nominal only—I have such confidence in your wisdom that you in fact should "be the guiding Head and I the hand." The situation you would be placed in is not without its parallel. Scipio the conqueror of Carthage did not disdain to act as a Lieutenant of his younger and less experienced brother Lucius. I refer you to Major Trimble who is instructed to communicate many particulars to you.

With regard and respect

I am Dr Sir

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

His Excellency Govr. ISAAC SHELBY
Frankfort (Ky)

GREEN CLAY TO HARRISON

CAMP MEIGS July 22nd 1813

Har. Pa. 119

DEAR GENL:

We have no certain inteligence as to the number of the enemy. From appearance we expect their number of regular troops and militia to exceed 2000 of the number of Indians we have no criterion to judge except that of their former forces.

They have not yet opened their Batteries upon us—but we

hourly expect it and are fully prepared to meet them in any manner they may make the attack.

Our troops are in high spirits and most woefully will the enemy be deceived in their anticipations of conquest.

I have the honor to be with sentiments of the highest esteem and respect your obt. servt.

(Signed) GREEN CLAY

Major Genl. HARRISON

A True Copy

JOHN O'FALLON *Aid de Camp*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No 74)

Head Quarters LOWER SANDUSKY 23rd July 1813

Har. Pa. 112-115

SIR:

Fort Meigs is actually invested by the enemy an express arrived here last evening with the information. The British and Indians appeared to be in considerable force. They were not discovered untill the morning of the 21st when they fired upon a party that was leaving the Fort and killed 6. The express says that the British were erecting batteries on the opposite bank and the Indians occupying the wood around the Fort from whence they kept up through the day a warm fire on the Fort doing however no injury. The post is in every respect in a better situation for defence than it was when besieged before, it has Col. [William P.] Anderson Col. [Edmund Pendleton] Gains and 300 picked men of the 24th Regt. They have 76 or 80 18lb. shot less than at the commencement of the former attack but more than double the number of 12lb. shot and 5 p. inch shells 6lb shot and case and grape in abundance the latter of every size together with 270 24lb. shot which suits the calibre of our Howitzers and serve well for Racochet firing.

I have with me here about 300 effective Regulars and a few worthless militia whom I was upon the point of discharging. I shall leave Major [George] Croghan here with a sufficient Garrison and with the ballance take a position at the old Seneca Town nine miles higher up the River on the road to Upper Sandusky. the distance from that place to Fort Meigs is precisely the same as from here, and from thence or further

on towards Upper Sandusky will be the only route to approach Fort Meigs with a probability of reaching it undiscovered. A swamp of 30 miles intervenes to which there is nothing to be compared even in this generally swampy country. It is at this moment nearly half leg deep in mud and water throughout. Three hundred and forty or fifty men of the 27th Regt. are between this place and Upper Sandusky—Col. [Thomas Deye] Owings with 500 of the 28th Regt. must be near to Franklinton. I have sent after Col. [R. M.] Johnson, he may be overtaken at Urbanna but the greater part of his men will have scattered and gone off to Ky. after fresh horses. The prospect of assembling a sufficient force to raise the siege in a short time is gloomy. However doubt not, I pray you, of my utmost exertions. You will have heard of the Blockade of Erie could the fleet but get out and be able to drive off that of the enemy Malden might fall and the return of Proctor intercepted. He has with him Gun Boats and small crafts only. I could engage to succeed with the few Troops I have in any enterprize rather than the defeating four times their number of Indians in the Black Swamp. It is not the least of my embarrassments to know what to do with the Sandusky Indians. 60 of these are now here to offer their services. The professions of the greater part are I fear hollow and made under the belief of the prosperous state of our affairs. The least disaster will I fear discover that their Hearts are not with us. The Shawanese have lately given a striking proof of their fidelity which I have not now time to explain. A few of the Delawares are our friends one of them put to death a few days ago, an Indian of the name of Blue Jacket who was coming here to assassinate me and then escape to the enemy.

I have the Honor to be with Great Respect Yr. Humble Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble. Genl. JOHN ARMSTRONG *Secretary of War*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No 75)

Head Quarters SENECA TOWNS 9 miles from L. SANDUSKY
24th July 1813

Har. Pa. 116-118

SIR:

Mr. [William] Oliver, who set out from Fort Meigs in the

night between the 21st and 22nd a few hours after the express messenger mentioned in my last, met me yesterday morning on the march to this place and last evening the enclosed letter [July 22 above] From Genl. [Green] Clay was brought to me by a Sergeant who left the Fort at 11 o'clock the preceding night. An intelligent young gentleman a private in the Petersburgh volunteers, accompanied the sergeant. From all of these persons I have received the satisfactory information that the Health of the Troops at Fort Meigs was most wonderfully restored before the appearance of the enemy. That the lines are well manned and the whole of [Col. William P.] Anderson's Regiment (300 choice men) left as a disposable force when the Sergeant left the garrison it was not ascertained that the enemy had erected or were erecting any Batteries. The cannonading was continued at intervals through the whole of yesterday and as I had supposed untill 11 o'clock last night but one of my parties, who were last night at Portage River are of opinion that what we heard here was thunder, not a gun has been heard today. I have two parties of Indians, accompanied each by a person whom I can depend upon now out for the purpose of approaching the Fort as near as possible and taking a prisoner. If the object of the enemy is the attacking of Fort Winchester and Wayne I have not the means of preventing their success, but their safe retreat will be more jeopardised than Genl. [Henry] Proctor will (as I would suppose) be willing to risk for the object to be gained by taking them. His appearing before Fort Meigs may have been intended to draw our attention and forces to that quarter whilst his real object is to attack Lower Sandusky or Cleaveland, he former place is untenable there is nothing in it of any value but two hundred barrels of Flour and I have made arrangements for withdrawing the garrison and leaving the Fort. Another project of Genl. Proctors may be to draw me into the Black Swamp and overwhelm me with his Indians. Upon the whole I have little apprehension for the safety of Fort Meigs. Nothing, however, shall be neglected to ascertain its security. Should it appear to be in danger before I am enabled to collect a sufficient force to meet the enemy in the field I will endeavour to break through them with two or three hundred picked men.

Major [Levi] Hukill is endeavoring to prepare for a com-

plete muster and Inspection of the army at the close of the month, should our situation allow it. The Task is not an easy one from the neglect, inexperience and ignorance of many of the officers. Should the President think proper to allow me an Inspector Genl. I could wish that Major Hukill could receive the appointment, and Capt. [James R.] Butler that of Assistant. I have the Honor to be with great Respect Sir Your Obt. servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble. JOHN ARMSTRONG, Esq.

COL. WM. RUSSEL TO GOVERNOR THOMAS POSEY

VINCENNES, July 25, 1813

Niles' Register V 9

SIR:

I have completed my intended scout, and reached every point of destination, and arrived at this place in four weeks. On our route we had much rainy weather and consequently high waters, which destroyed much of our provisions, and made the route much more disagreeable than otherwise it would have been. The route from this place until we returned amounts to upwards of 500 miles, the greater part of which is certainly equal (if not superior) to any tracts of country upon the western waters; all of which lies in your territory. We proceeded from Vallonia to the Delaware towns, from thence to the Mississinawa towns, there we found four or five distinct villages; one pretty strongly fortified, adjoining which a very considerable encampment of Indians had been kept up, all of which we destroyed. We supposed the Indians had evacuated those towns very early in the spring. From thence we proceeded down the Wabash to Eel river town, from thence to Winemack village, from thence to the Prophet's town, from thence we re-crossed the Wabash, and took the Winebagoe town in our route to Fort Harrison. We went to every place where we could expect to fall in with the enemy (that our situation would justify) as our provisions were then very short and our horses much fatigued.

I had a part of six companies of rangers and a few volunteers from the territory, and was joined by one hundred volunteers of Kentucky—when I found our force was 573 effective men. The army marched in five distinct columns, with

instructions how the front the rear and the flanks were to act in case of an attack on either. The right flank was commanded by general Cox of the Kentucky volunteers the extreme left was commanded by Col. [Robert] Evans, of the Indiana territory the other column on the right was commanded by general Thomas of the Kentucky volunteers, the other column on the left commanded by col. [Walter] Wilson of this territory, and the centre by maj. Z. Taylor of the U. S. army; all those officers discovered so much zeal for the success of the expedition, as convinced me they would have done themselves credit had we encountered the enemy. Col. [Joseph] Bartholomew acted as my aid-de-camp; this veteran has been so well tried in this kind of warfare, that any encomiums from me would be useless. major John Allen from Kentucky, acted as quarter-master, Mr. Hancock Taylor, as quartermaster sergt. maj. Harden acted as adjutant, and Homer Johnson [Knox Co.] of the rangers as his assistant. All those gentlemen acted with such promptitude as gave me but little trouble, and that only to check their zeal on certain occasions. gen. Clever of Kentucky, commanded the advanced party, and acquitted himself much to my satisfaction. I find also in the Kentucky corps several professional and other characters of high standing—which are deserving of their country; from the zeal of the officers and privates I entertain great hopes that they will render considerable service to their country. The volunteers from the territory were principally men of experience in Indian warfare, consequently capable of rendering services.

Messrs. [Joseph] Barron and [Pierre] Laplant, your Indian interpreters, accompanied us as guides, assisted by lieut. [Hyacinthe] Lasselle, who were always on the alert, and discharged the duties assigned them with great promptitude.

Such was the disposition of the army, and happy should I have been could they have had an opportunity of realizing the high expectations I entertained of them.

I have the honor to be, with high respect, your obedient servant.

WILLIAM RUSSELL

P. S. Col. Bartholomew and lieut. [Joseph] Shields (of captain Peyton's company of rangers) volunteered and crossed through the country from below the Prophet's town

to the Ohio, in two places; from this you will discover, that the country has been completely chequered in all directions—and strange to tell, saw no fresh sign of Indians.

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

Head Quarters LOWER SANDUSKY 25th July 1813

Har. Pa. 111

SIR:

Lieut. [David] Gwynne late paymaster of the 19th Regiment having expressed a great anxiety to have his accounts settled I have directed him to repair to Washington for that purpose. I have before mentioned this young officer to you, for gallantry honour and correctness of conduct he is not excelled by any officer in the service.

I have the honor to be with high Respect Sir Your Humble Svt WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble Genl. JOHN ARMSTRONG *Secretary of War*

GREEN CLAY TO HARRISON

CAMP MEIGS July 26th 1813

Har. Pa. 120, 121

DEAR GENL.

We are still surrounded by the enemy. They have not as yet opened their artillery upon us.

Their principal force remained at the old garrison and near their former encampment from the 20th until the 23rd when I sent a corps of observation from the garrison and I reconnoitred around and within view.

This movement was observed by the enemy and a considerable number of their forces crossed the River and were in a few minutes around us firing small arms which done no injury.

On the 24th their whole forces crossed over to this side where they remained encamped but in what particular position we have not yet ascertained.

Their vessels are sometimes in view crossing and recrossing below.

This evening they gave us a sham battle amongst themselves along the trace and nearly in view; no doubt to decoy us out. Our Troops paraded to make the Battle a real one. The move-

ments of the enemy are somewhat misterious. Experience has already proven to them that any attempt on this post would be vain make it when and in what way they will and most woefully will they repent their temerity. Our troops are in fine health and spirits and anxiously await another opportunity to distinguish themselves.

I have the honor to be with the highest esteem your Ob. Svt.

(Signed) GREEN CLAY

Major Genl. WILLIAM H. HARRISON *Comg. the N. W. Army*

(A true copy) J. O'FALLON *A. D. C.*

GREEN CLAY TO HARRISON

CAMP MEIGS July 28, 1813

Har. Pa. 125, 126

DEAR GENL.

The enemy occupied their encampment on this side of the river below us until this morning. When with great precipitation they set sail from the first bend below. They were in full view and displayed two schooners and about one hundred and fifty sail. Small craft apparently all filled with men.

The Indians have been rapidly going down on the opposite shore nearly all day. They were principally mounted and about 400 in number.

It was said by an officer that about 20 cannon shot from the Lake was heard just before their departure.

Whether they have actually abandoned all idea of attacking this post, or what are their views I can form no conjecture.

So far from lulling us into security their recent movement has increased (if possible) our vigilance.

The troops here continue in good health and spirits and never did soldiers more vigilantly watch or anxiously wait the approach of any enemy. Several of the officers who were here during the former siege deem the number of the enemy considerably greater now than was brought against you.

Be assured Sir whatever may be their designs they never will subdue this post with even double the numbers they have this day presented to our view. I have the honor to be with the highest Sentiments of Respect & Esteem Your Obt. Sevt.

GREEN CLAY

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 76)

Head Quarters SENACA TOWNS 9 miles above LOWER SANDUSKY 28th July 1813

Har. Pa. 122-124

SIR:

Capt. McCune of the Ohio Militia whom I sent from this place on the 25th to endeavour to penetrate to Fort Meigs returned last evening with the enclosed letter from Gen. [Green] Clay. [see July 28, above] Capt. McCune gives me such an account of the state of the works and garrison as to leave no room for apprehension for its safety unless indeed they should be weak enough to suffer themselves to be decoyed into the woods by the strategems of the enemy. It was extremely fortunate that Capt. McCune got into the Fort on the morning of the 26th as it is more than probable that a sally in force would have been made for the assistance of their supposed friends. I am under apprehensions for Fort Winchester. I have not yet heard from the Officer whom I sent to watch the movements of the enemy in that direction.

Since I had the Honor to address you I have been joined by Colo. [George] Paull with 350 effectives of the 27th reg. and 150 Dragoons under Lt. Col. [James V.] Ball. unfortunately ten of the officers of the former Regiment and nearly one third of the men are prisoners of war; of the two companies of the 26th that I have with me Capt. [William Henry] Puthuff (an officer that would do honor to any service) one of his subalterns and more than one third of the Company are in the same situation. Col. [Thomas D.] Owings with his Regt. left Franklinton on the 25th, one would suppose that our officers had learned their tactics from the maxims of Augustus and that the *Speu de Bradoes* [make haste slowly] of which he was so fond, governed them in all their movements. A very large body of the enemy's Indians are mounted fearing that by a rapid march they might turn my left and reach Upper Sandusky I have directed Col. Owings to strengthen the garrison with 50 men. I keep the country to the westward as far as Hulls road well reconnoitred. The Indians cannot take Sandusky and if the British should attempt it they shall have reason to repent it. I hear nothing since my last from Capt. [Oliver H.] Perry. I cannot make a

selection of Sergeants or Ensigns untill the communication with Fort Meigs is opened—in the mean time permit me to recommend Lieut. Major James McQuire of the 19th Infy.

There are several of this grade that will bear promotion and more amongst the Volunteers. Shall I have the privilege of appointing some of these *pro tem pore?* It is much to be regretted that Capt. Jas. Butler who commands the Pittsburgh Blues had not made known his wishes for an appointment in the Regular Service earlier. He is the son of the late Genl. Richard Butler. The British Army has not a more accomplished Capt. should there be an original vacancy of Major or Capt. or even of Col. the public interests would be served by giving it to him. Why not in the 26th and endeavour to fill it up in the upper part of Pennsylvania.

With great respect I have the Honor to be Sir your Hubl. Svt

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble. Genl. JOHN ARMSTRONG *Secretary of War*

HARRISON TO CROGHAN

July 29, 1813

McAfee, *History, 322*

SIR:

Immediately on receiving this letter, you will abandon fort Stephenson, set fire to it, and repair with your command this night to head quarters. Cross the river and come up on the opposite side. If you should deem and find it impracticable to make good your march to this place, take the road to Huron and pursue it with the utmost circumspection and despatch.

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT July 29th 1813

Har. Pa. 81

SIR:

Herewith inclosed you will receive a communication from the Executive of Kentucky transmitted through their delegation in Congress.

The subject has been before you and you will please to direct a settlement of all the just claims of the militia for retained rations, and authorize the proper agent to draw on this Dept. for such expenditures. Where abstracts were fur-

nished to the Contractor for such retained rations the amount due the troops is chargeable to him, an account of which should be immediately transmitted to this Department.

Major General HARRISON, Cleveland

CROGHAN TO HARRISON

July 30, 1813

McAfee, *History*, *323*

SIR:

I have just received yours of yesterday, 10 o'clock P. M. ordering me to destroy this place and make good my retreat, which was received too late to be carried into execution. We have determined to maintain this place, and by heavens we can.

HARRISON TO CROGHAN

July 30, 1813

Dawson, *Harrison*, *402-3*

SIR:

The General has just received your letter of this date, informing him that you had thought proper to disobey the order issued from this office, and delivered to you this morning. It appears that the information which dictated the order was incorrect; and as you did not receive it in the night, as was expected, it might have been proper that you should have reported the circumstance and your situation, before you proceeded to its execution. This might have been passed over, but I am directed to say to you, that an officer who presumes to aver, that he has made his resolution, and that he will act in direct opposition to the orders of his General, can no longer be entrusted with a separate command. Colonel [Samuel] Wells is sent to relieve you. You will deliver the command to him, and repair with colonel [James V.] Ball's squadron to this place. By command, etc.

A. H. HOMES, *Asst. Adj. General*

SHELBY TO COLONELS A TO Z KY. MILITIA

FRANKFORT, July 31st, 1813

McAfee, *History*, *336*

DEAR SIR:

The following address to the militia of Kentucky will in-

form you of the call that has been made upon the governor of Kentucky for a reinforcement to the northwestern army; and of my views as to the mode of complying with it. I forward one to you particularly, sir, under the hope that you will exert your influence to bring into the field all the men in your power. Be so good as to acknowledge the receipt of this letter, and apprize me of the calculations which I may make of the number of men that can be raised in your county and whether it will suit your convenience to go with us. I shall at all times take a pleasure in acknowledging the public spirit by which you will be actuated and the obligations you will lay me under.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, Your obt. servant, ISAAC SHELBY

SHELBY TO MILITIA

FRANKFORT, July 31st, 1813

McAfee, *History*, 337

FELLOW SOLDIERS:

Your government has taken measures to act effectually against the enemy in Upper Canada. General Harrison, under the authority of the president of the United States, has called upon me for a strong body of troops to assist in effecting the grand objects of the campaign. The enemy in hopes to find us unprepared, has again invested fort Meigs; but he will again be mistaken; and before you can take the field he will be driven from that post.

To comply with the requisition of general Harrison, a draft might be enforced; but believing as I do, that the ardor and patriotism of my countrymen has not abated, and that they have waited with impatience a fair opportunity of avenging the blood of their butchered friends, I have appointed the 31st day of August, next, at Newport, for a general rendezvous of Kentucky Volunteers. I will meet you there in person. I will lead you to the field of the battle, and share with you the dangers and honors of the campaign. Our services will not be required more than sixty days after we reach headquarters.

I invite all officers, and others possessing influence, to come forward with what mounted men they can raise; each shall command the men he may bring into the field. The superior officers will be appointed by myself at the place of general

rendezvous, or on our arrival at headquarters: and I shall take pleasure in acknowledging to my country the merits and public spirit of those who may be useful in collecting a force for the present emergency.

Those who have good rifles, and know how to use them, will bring them along. Those who have not, will be furnished with muskets at Newport.

FELLOW CITIZEN! Now is the time to act; and by one decisive blow, put an end to the contest in that quarter.

ISAAC SHELBY

SHELBY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

FRANKFORT, August 1, 1813

Historical Register III, 94

SIR:

A few days ago I was honoured with a letter from general Harrison under date of the 20th ultimo, [see above] by his aid-de-camp [Col. Allen] Trimble. In it he says, that "he had just received a letter from the secretary at war authorizing him to call from the neighbouring states such numbers of militia as he might deem requisite for the ensuing operations against Upper Canada." In pursuance of that power, he has made a requisition on the government of Kentucky for reinforcements, and has referred me to Major Trimble for information, etc. and has in warm terms solicited my taking the field in person. Much delay would have been the inevitable consequence of ordering out the militia as infantry in the ordinary mode, by draft. As mounted volunteers, a competent force can, I feel confident, be easily raised. I have therefore appointed the 31st of this month, at Newport, in this state, for a general rendezvous of mounted volunteers.

I have the honour of inclosing for the information of the president a copy of my address [see above] to the militia of this state on the occasion.

The prospect of acting efficiently against Upper Canada will, I have no doubt, call forth a large force to our standard, and they will be immediately marched to the head-quarters of the north-western army, in such bodies as will best facilitate their movements; when there they can act as foot or mounted, as circumstances may require.

I shall take great pleasure to hear from the president on

this subject previous to my departure from this place, and I request the favour of you to lay this letter immediately before him for his consideration, and that you will be pleased to apprise me of the result by the earliest conveyance.

I have the honour to be, most respectfully, your obedient servant, ISAAC SHELBY

The honourable the Secretary of War

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 77)

Head Quarters SENECA TOWNS
9 miles above L. SANDUSKY 1st Aug. 1813

Har. Pa. 127-129

SIR:

I have the honor to enclose you a letter received the evening before the last from Genl. [Green] Clay communicating the departure of the enemy from before Fort Meigs. [see July 28 above] I have not yet been able to ascertain whether the British Troops and the main body of their allies have returned to Malden, or whether they still hover on the southern shore of the Lake, with a design to attempt some other enterprise. Since the morning of the 29th the latter have so swarmed in the woods around us as to leave me for sometime little doubt of an intended attack upon Lower Sandusky or this place and I suppose that the British were coming up the Sandusky Bay and River. The parties which I have sent to the Lake have not yet returned. As the wind has been favourable and the enemy were not near Sandusky this morning I conclude that they have sought their own shores. Should this be the case the advantage gained by them on this second invasion, in which there could not have been less than 5000 men employed amount to the surprise of a picket guard near to Fort Meigs by the Indians, and killing and taking six of the men, and wounding an Express and a boy of 14 years of age on the road to Sandusky. To ballance them I have the honor to inform you that Col. [James V.] Balls dragoons met with a party of Indians last evening near to Lower Sandusky and killed 11 out of the 12 of them. The Indians had formed an ambush and fired upon the advanced guard consisting of a Sergeant and five privates upon seeing the squadron pursued by Col. Ball and overtaken by the front squad of Capt. Hop-

kins Troops. The greater part of them were cut down by Col. Ball, Capt. [S. G.] Hopkins and his subalterns, whose horses being fleetest overtook them first. The loss on our side conists of two privates wounded one of them very slightly two horses killed and 0 [?] badly wounded.

I shall learn early tomorrow whether the enemy have gone down the lake or not. If they have I shall take the road to Cleaveland with the Dragoons and 200 mounted militia which I expect to join me tonight or tomorrow morning. Col. [Thomas D.] Owings has not yet arrived. I have been unceasingly employed in fortifying my position here to remedy in that way the weakness of my force.

I received letters from Erie last night of the 27th Inst. Capt. Perry was then *only* in want of *men* and *officers* to enable him to leave the harbor and attack the 4 vessels of the enemy then in sight.

I have the honor to be with great Respect Sir Yr. Humble Svt

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble Genl. JOHN ARMSTRONG Esqr. *Secretary of War*

P. S. My fears for the safety of Fort Winchester were relieved by the return of Lt. [Benjamin W.] Sanders on the 29th inst. he crossed the Miami River above Fort Meigs and found no appearance of any number of the enemy having passed up in that direction.

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 78)

Head Quarters SENECA TOWNS Aug. 1st 1813

Har. Pa. 130

SIR:

Since I had the honor of writing this morning to you, the party which I had sent to the Lake returned they saw some boats, three vessels with sails and a number of Indian canoes near to the mouth of the Sandusky Bay. They were unable to approach near enough to make any particular discoveries and had no glass. There can be no doubt however but the enemy are there in force.

Will you be so obliging as to order some small spy glasses

to be sent by the Express mail via Cleaveland for the use of the officers commanding Scouting parties.

I have the honor to be with Great Respect Yr. Obt. Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble JOHN ARMSTRONG Esqr. *Secretary of War*

SHELBY TO HARRISON

FRANKFORT—August—2d—1813

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book A" 125

DEAR SIR

Your favour of the 20 ult. by major [David] Trimble has been duly received since which a letter from General [Green] Clay has also come to hand stating that the combined force of British & Indians had invested Fort Meigs—I have considered a volunteer scheme as the course most likely to obtain the reinforcement which you request & have in consequence of that opinion appointed the 31st day of this present month, for a General rendezvous of mounted volunteers at New Port on the Ohio and propose to head them myself. In addition to this I have addressed a circular letter to most of the Field officers & other influential characters in this State to step forth on this occasion—I am yet not able to say what will be the result but I flatter myself that a sufficient number to meet your wishes will turn out and you may rest assured every energy which I possess shall be exerted the utmost to effect it. I need not observe to you how important it will be to have rations and forage laid in on the way it will be impossible to move on without the latter indeed a supply must be laid in in this State.—Men who travel from the southern parts of it will require both rations & forage at that place to enable them to proceed. I beg you may attend to this subject and let me know what is to be expected seeing that you cannot be reinforced in any other way the Government must not stickle at the trifling Expense of a little forage to obtain an efficient force for the main objects of the campaign. You shall be regularly informed of the progress I am making to reinforce you of the steps I deem necessary to effect it & hope they will meet your approbation & that of my country. no apology was necessary to invite me to your standard had I more age & much greater experience I would not hesitate to fight under

your banner for the honour & interest of my beloved country.

Accept my good sir assurances of most perfect esteem and regard and remain

Your obt. servant

ISAAC SHELBY

To Genl. HARRISON

GEORGE CROGHAN TO HARRISON

LOWER SANDUSKY, Aug. 3, 1813

Niles' Register IV, 389

DEAR SIR;

The enemy made an attempt to storm us last evening, but was repulsed with the loss of at least 100 killed wounded and prisoners. One lieut. col. (lt. col. Short) a major and a lieutenant, with about 40 privates, are dead in our ditch. I have lost but one in killed, and but few wounded. Further statements will be made you by the bearer.

GEORGE CROGHAN, *major, commanding Fort Sandusky*

N. B. Since writing the above, two soldiers of the 41st regiment have got in, who state that the enemy have retreated. In fact, one of their gunboats is within three hundred yards of our works, said to be loaded with camp-equipage, &c. which they, in their hurry have left.

GEORGE CROGAN

JOHN JOHNSON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

PIQUA, August 3, 1813

Niles' Register V, 7

The Delaware and Shawanoese Indians on this frontier have turned out about two hundred men who have marched to the relief of gen. Harrison. The Wyandots within our lines, the Senecas and Mingoes have also turned out their disposable force, about two hundred more. The whole intend to continue with the army during the campaign.

JNO. JOHNSTON, *Indian Agent*

WILLIAM RUSSELL TO POSEY

VINCENNES August 4, 1813

Niles' Register V, 10

On my return from the Mississinawa, I found the Indians

had got in small parties on this side of the Wabash, between this place and the mouth of White river. Those two rivers for some distance up, are skirted with prodigious swamps and brush, which afforded them a complete shelter, I despatched rangers in different directions in order to drive them out, the citizens also assembled and assisted to chequer the country—some of the Indians had got possession of some horses and were making off. They were pursued by capt. [Touissant] Dubois, and a party of men, who overtook them and recovered three horses, but did not get sight of an Indian. captain John Andre of the rangers volunteered his services to follow them, he went on with 16 or 18 rangers. He was also joined by captain Dubois and Mr. [Joseph] Barron your interpreter, together with a Potawatomy Indian that resides with Mr. Barron; they soon discovered a trail of horses making out from the settlement, which they pursued, and soon overtook a spy that was kept in the rear; they pushed on and dispatched him, which gave notice to those in front who left their horses and fled with great precipitation—and from the nature of the country could not be followed; they got from this party also 5 horses; the party returned on the 2d inst. Capt. Dubois and Mr. Barron are active men; captain Andre is also a very brave active and enterprising man. I hope this friendly Indian will in future prove serviceable, as I am told nothing can exceed his activity in the woods particularly on a trail.

Harrison to Secretary of War

Head-Quarters, Seneca Town, August 4, 1813

Historical Register, II, 251

Sir,

In my letter of the 1st instant, I did myself the honour to inform you that one of my scouting parties had just returned from the lake shore, and had discovered, the day before, the enemy in force near the mouth of the Sandusky bay. [see Aug. 1 above] The party had not passed Lower Sandusky two hours, before the advance, consisting of Indians, appeared before the fort, and in half an hour after a large detachment of British troops; and in the course of the night they commenced a cannonading against the fort with three six-pounders and two howitzers; the latter from gun-boats.

The firing was partially answered by major [George] Croghan, having a six-pounder, the only piece of artillery.

The fire of the enemy was continued at intervals, during the second instant, until about half after five, P. M., when finding that their cannon made little impression upon the works, and having discovered my position here, and apprehending an attack, an attempt was made to carry the place by storm. Their troops were formed in two columns; lieutenant-colonel Short headed the principal one, composed of the light and battalion companies of the 41st regiment.

This gallant officer conducted his men to the brink of the ditch, under the most galling and destructive fire from the garrison, and leaping into it was followed by a considerable part of his own and the light company; at this moment a masked port hole was suddenly opened, and a six-pounder with a half load of powder and double charge of leaden slugs, at the distance of 30 feet, poured destruction upon them and killed or wounded nearly every man who had entered the ditch. In vain did the British officers exert themselves to lead on the balance of the column; it retired in disorder under a shower of shot from the fort, and sought safety in the adjoining woods. The other column headed by the grenadiers had also retired, after having suffered from the muskets of our men, to an adjacent ravine. In the course of the night, the enemy, with the aid of their Indians, drew off the greater part of the wounded and dead, and embarking them in boats descended the river with the utmost precipitation. In the course of the 2d instant, having heard the cannonading, I made several attempts to ascertain the force and situation of the enemy; our scouts were unable to get near the fort, from the Indians which surrounded it. Finding however, that the enemy had only light artillery, and being well convinced that it could make little impression upon the works, and that any attempt to storm it would be resisted with effect, I waited for the arrival of 250 mounted volunteers, which on the evening before had left Upper Sandusky. But as soon as I was informed that the enemy were retreating, I set out with the dragoons to endeavour to overtake them, leaving generals [Duncan] M'Arthur and [Lewis] Cass to follow with all the infantry (about 700) that could be spared from the protection of the stores and sick at this place. I found it impossible

to come up with them. Upon my arrival at Sandusky, I was informed by the prisoners that the enemy's forces consisted of 490 regular troops, and 500 [Robert] Dixon's Indians, commanded by general [Henry] Proctor in person, and that Tecumseh, with about 2000 warriors, was somewhere in the swamps, between this and Fort Meigs, expecting my advancing, or that of a convoy of provisions.

As there was no prospect of doing any thing in front, and being apprehensive that Tecumseh might destroy the stores and small detachments in my rear, I sent orders to general Cass, who commanded the reserve, to fall back to this place, and to general M'Arthur with the front line to follow and support him. I remained at Sandusky until the parties that were sent out in every direction returned—not an enemy was to be seen.

I am sorry that I cannot transmit you major [George] Croghan's official report. He was to have sent it to me this morning, but I have just heard that he was so much exhausted by 36 hours of continued exertion as to be unable to make it. It will not be amongst the least of general proctor's mortifications to find that he has been baffled by a youth who has just passed his twenty-first year. He is, however a hero worthy of his gallant uncle (general George R. Clark).

Captain [James] Hunter, of the 17th regiment, the second in command, conducted himself with great propriety; and never were a set of finer young fellows than the subalterns, viz. lieutenants [Benjamin] Johnson and [Cyrus Alexander] Baylor of the 17th, [Joseph] Anthony of the 24th, [John] Meeks of the 7th, and ensigns [Edmund] Shipp and [Joseph] Duncan of the 17th.

The following account of the unworthy artifice and conduct of the enemy will excite your indignation. major Chambers was sent by general Proctor, accompanied by colonel Elliott, to demand the surrender of the fort. They were met by ensign Shipp. The major observed, that general Proctor had a number of cannon, a large body of regular troops, and so many Indians whom it was impossible to controul; and if the fort was taken, as it must be, the whole of the garrison would be massacred. Mr. Shipp, answered, that it was the determination of major Croghan, his officers and men, to defend the garrison or be buried in it; and that they might do their best.

Colonel Elliott then addressed Mr. Shipp, and said, "you are a fine young man; I pity your situation; for God's sake surrender, and prevent the dreadful slaughter that must follow resistance." Shipp turned from him with indignation, and was immediately taken hold of by an Indian, who attempted to wrest his sword from him. Elliott pretended to exert himself to release him, and expressed great anxiety to get him safe in the fort.

I have the honour to enclose you a copy of the first note received from major Croghan. It was written before day; and it has since been ascertained, that of the enemy there remained in the ditch one lieutenant-colonel one lieutenant and 25 privates: the number of prisoners, one serjeant and 25 privates: 14 of them badly wounded: every care has been taken of the latter, and the officers buried with the honours due to their rank and bravery. All the dead that were not in the ditch, were taken off in the night by the Indians. It is impossible, from the circumstances of the attack, that they should have lost less than 100. Some of the prisoners think that it amounted to 200. A young gentelman, a private in the Petersburg volunteers, of the name of Brown, assisted by five or six of that company, and of the Pittsburg blues, who were accidentally in the fort, managed the six-pounder which produced such destruction in the ranks of the enemy.

I have the honour to be &c.

WM. HENRY HARRISON

N. B. Of our few wounded men there is but one that will not be well in less than six days.

SHELBY TO HARRISON

FRANKFORT Aug 4th 1813

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book A" 133

To Genl. HARRISON,

DR SIR

Since I had the honour of addressing you last I have heard from several of the adjoining counties—The information received confirms the opinion I had entertained that the patriotism of this State had not diminished, and induces me to believe I shall on the day of rendezvous meet four or five thousand vollunteers and perhaps a much larger number this ren-

ders it highly important that supplies of provisions, forage, &c., &c., should be laid in with a liberal hand. I flatter myself that you will give the requisite orders on the subject & as soon as practicable. I am still of opinion that forage provision should be laid in at George town that the men may then draw what will last them untill they get to New Port; those from the southern part of the State cannot well move on without it—you will please let me hear from you as soon as practicable.

I have the honour to be very respectfully
Your obt. Servt.

ISAAC SHELBY

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

Head-Quarters, SENECA TOWN,
5th August, 1813—8 o'clock A. M.

Historical Register II, 254

I have the honour to enclose you major [George] Croghan's report of the attack upon his fort, which has this moment come to hand. Fortunately the mail has not closed.

With great respect, I have the honour to be, sir, your humble servant,

WM. HENRY HARRISON

CROGHAN TO HARRISON

LOWER SANDUSKY, August 5, 1813

Historical Register II, 254

DEAR SIR,

I have the honour to inform you that the combined forces of the enemy, amounting to at least 500 regulars and 700 or 800 Indians, under the immediate command of general [Henry] Proctor, made its appearance before this place early on Sunday evening last, and so soon as the general had made such disposition of his troops as would cut off my retreat, should I be disposed to make one, he sent colonel Elliott, accompanied by major Chambers, with a flag, to demand the surrender of the fort, as he was anxious to spare the effusion of blood, which he should probably not have in his power to do, should he be reduced to the necessity of taking the place by storm. My answer to the summons was, that I was deter-

mined to defend the place to the last extremity, and that no force, however large, should induce me to surrender it. So soon the flag had returned, a brisk fire was opened upon us from the gun-boats in the river, and from a 5½ inch howitzer on shore, which was kept up with little intermission throughout the night. At an early hour next morning, three sixes (which had been placed during the night within 250 yards of the pickets) began to play upon us with little effect. About four o'clock, P. M., discovering that the fire from all his guns was concentrated against the northwestern angle of the fort, I became confident that his object was to make a breach, and attempt to storm the works at that point, I therefore ordered out as many men as could be employed for the purpose of strengthening that part, which was so effectually secured by means of bags of flour, sand, etc. that the picketing suffered little or no injury; notwithstanding which the enemy, about 500, having formed in close column, advanced to assault our works at the expected point, at the same time making two feints on the front of captain [James] Hunter's lines. The column which advanced against the northwestern angle, consisting of about 350 men, was so completely enveloped in smoke, as not to be discovered until it had approached within 18 or 20 paces of the lines, but the men being all at their posts and ready to receive it, commenced so heavy and galling a fire as to throw the column a little into confusion; being quickly rallied, it advanced to the outer works, and began to leap into the ditch. Just at that moment a fire of grape was opened from our six-pounder (which had been previously arranged so as to rake in that direction) which, together with the musketry, threw them into such confusion that they were compelled to retire precipitately to the woods.

During the assault, which lasted about half an hour, an incessant fire was kept up by the enemy's artillery (which consisted of five sixes and a howitzer) but without effect. My whole loss during the siege, was one killed and seven wounded, slightly. The loss of the enemy in killed, wounded and prisoners, must exceed 150: one lieutenant-colonel, a lieutenant, and 50 rank and file were found in and about the ditch, dead or wounded. Those of the remainder who were not able to escape were taken off during the night by Indians. Seventy stand of arms, and several brace of pistols have been collected

near the works. About three in the morning the enemy sailed down the river, leaving behind them a boat, containing clothing and considerable military stores.

Too much praise cannot be bestowed on the officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates under my command, for their gallantry and good conduct during the siege.

G. CROGHAN, *Major 17 United States Infantry*

Major General HARRISON, *commanding N. W. Army*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT August 5, 1813

Har. Pa. 82, 83

SIR:

The best interpretation of the late movements of the enemy in your quarter is that De Rottenburg has detached to the aid of [Henry] Proctor between four and five hundred men, and that with these he is attempting to save Malden by attacking fort Meigs. If this conjecture be well founded it suggests the true policy on our part provided our flotilla can get over the Bar. Go directly to Malden, and leave Mr. Proctor to amuse himself with fort Meigs. There is no objection to your appointing the Sergeants to other offices *pro tempre.* Captain [Robert] Butler has been appointed Major of the 32d Regiment and Lieut. [James] McGhee Captain in the 42nd.

Major Genl. HARRISON

HARRISON TO MEIGS

Headquarters, UPPER SANDUSKY, Aug. 6, 1813

Niles' Register, IV, 420

DEAR SIR:

Your excellency's letter of the 4th inst. was delivered to me yesterday morning by colonel [Henry] Brush. The exertions which you have made, and the promptitude with which your orders have been obeyed to assemble the militia to repel the late invasion of the enemy, is truly astonishing, and reflects the highest honor on the state. Believing that in a formal interview I could best explain to you the intention of the government and my own views, I determined to come on to this place to see you. I have now the honor to repeat to you in

this way the result of my determination on the employment of the militia, and most of the facts upon which my determination is founded. It has been the intention of government to form the army destined for operations upon Lake Erie, exclusively of regular troops, if they could be raised; the number was limited to 7,000—the deficiency of regulars was to be made up from the militia. From all the information I at present possess, I am convinced that there will be a great deficiency in the contemplated number of troops, even after the militia now in service, and whose time of service will not expire immediately, have been added to the regulars. I have therefore called upon the governor of Kentucky for 2000 effective men; with those, there will still be a deficiency of perhaps 1,200 troops. Your excellency has stated to me, that the men who have turned out upon this occasion, have done it with the expectation that they would be effectually employed, and that should they be sent home, there is no prospect of getting them to turn out, should it be hereafter necessary. To employ them all is impossible; with my utmost exertions the embarkation cannot be effected in less than 15 or 18 days. Should I ever determine to substitute them for the regular troops which are expected; to keep so large a force in the field, even for a short period, would consume the means which are provided for the support of the campaign, and which are only collected for the number above stated. Under these circumstances, I would recommend a middle course to your excellency, viz. to dismiss all the militia but two regiments of 10 companies each, of 100 men and an usual proportion of field, plattoon and non-commissioned officers and musicians; that the corps be encamped at or near this place until it is ascertained whether their services will be wanted—a short time will determine the question. Permit me to request your excellency to give your countenance and support to the exertions which general [Duncan] M'Arthur will make to fill up the 26th regiment of 12 months troops.

It appears that the venerable governor of Kentucky is about to take command of the troops of the state. Could your excellency think proper to follow his example, I need not tell you how highly grateful it would be to, dear sir, your friend.

WM. H. HARRISON

Proctor to Harrison

Amherstburg, Aug. 7th, 1813

Niles' Register IV, 419

Sir:

The bearer, lieut. Le Breton in the service of his Britannic majesty, I send under a flag of truce, with surgical aid, of which you may not have a sufficiency, for the brave soldiers who were too severely wounded to come off, or who may have lost their way after the unsuccessful attack made on the 2d inst. on the fort at Sandusky.

Expecting every consideration from the brave soldier for a wounded enemy, I flatter myself that those prisoners in your possession, and who can be removed without injury, will be permitted to return here on my parole of honor, that they shall not serve until truly and regularly exchanged.

I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient and humble servant.

Henry Proctor

To the officer commanding the fort at Sandusky

Shelby to Harrison

Frankfort Aug 8th 1813

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book A" 138

Dear Sir

I wrote you about the 2nd inst., by major [Peter G.] Voris and by the mail about the 4th for I have not the copies by me since which I have received information from various quarters of the State that the volunteer scheme will succeed but it is impossible to speak with any kind of certainty at so early a stage of the business I flatter myself however that I shall be able to bring in the field from two to three thousand or upward. my present views are that all these men will ride to the margin of the Lake and if they cross over leave about one tenth man to bring the horses back some distance & herd them in the best range in partials until the campaign expires many of the volunteers that will compose this corps will be Gent. who will care less about emoluments than their own ease and convenience & must have their horses taken care of to ride home a great proportion of the volunteers will come from the So. western parts of the State who will have to travel

from two to three hundred miles before they arrive at the points of rendezvous many of them too will be poor men who will not be able to proceed unless forage & rations are both supplied—indeed I shall expect that forage will be directed to be furnished at Georgetown in this State—Horses will otherwise become so weak it will be impossible for them to proceed further. I must therefore my good sir beg your early and particular attention to the subject of forage from George Town onwards least from the want of it the whole scheme to reinforce you from this State shall prove abortive. I should suppose that the discretion confided to you by the department of war will justify you in taking this step, which in my opinion is all important & cannot be dispensed with, but at the hazard of defeating the whole enterprise.—Major [David] Trimble your aid de camp has stated that you would not Guarantee the pay of more than 2000 men but will accept the services of a much larger number, were I to make this public I am confident it would damp the ardor of volunteers—even Gentlemen of fortune (of whom there are many that will go in the ranks) could not with any confidence encourage their poorer neighbors to hazard their lives and loose their times for nothing it is at any rate a great sacrifice for a citizen of Kentucky to make for the mere pay of a common foot soldier for the service of himself & horse.—I hope you will reflect also on this subject and authorize the payment for all that go, at least for 4000 men should so many turn out. for I shall otherwise not be able to draw the distinction between those that will be entitled to receive pay and those that shall not if more than 2000 volunteers turn out. If the want of forage or any other trifling occurrence should disgust the volunteers and cause them to refuse to proceed on from George town or the Ohio, rest assured that there will be an end to the spirit of volunteering from Kentucky.—You were not mistaken as to the indisposition of the people here to turn out again and it is has taken great exertion to reanimate them hence the greater necessity in the Government doing them at least common Justice—it is not a matter of so much moment that the men should be paid instantly—but such a debt of gratitude should be acknowledged by the Government & paid when she has funds to do it. I must my dear sir, hear from you before I leave New Port and if possible before the men leave their

homes.—That every practicable difficulty may be removed & that the true standing of corps may be fairly understood.

I have the honour to be Most respectfully, Dear General
Your most obdt. servt.

ISAAC SHELBY

Major General WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

GENERAL ORDER

Head-quarters, Eighth Military District,
SENECA TOWNS, 9th August, 1813

Niles' Register, IV, 420

Complaints having been made of unfair practices by some of the recruiting officers, in the enlistments of men; the commanding general directs the superintendent of each recruiting district to give the most prompt attention to every allegation of the kind, and immediately discharge every person who may have been enlisted contrary to law and the instructions of the war department. It shall also be the duty of such superintendants to arrest and send on to head-quarters for trial, every officer who may have offended in this way and the general announces it his unalterable determination to punish with the utmost rigor, such as may be convicted. But, whilst he thus evinces his desire to preserve his fellow citizens from every species of military oppression; he hopes that the patriotic citizens will venture their efforts to shield the recruiting officers from the persecutions of certain vile miscreants, who, disgracing an honorable and liberal profession, and for a contemptible fee, are constantly endeavoring to deprive their country of the service of men, who have been fairly and legally engaged.

A True Copy
A. H. HOLMES, *Assist. Adj't Gen.*

HARRISON TO PROCTOR

Head-quarters, Eighth Military District of the
United States, August 10, 1813

Niles' Register IV, 419

SIR:

Your letter addressed to the officer commanding at Lower Sandusky, [see Aug. 7 above] was forwarded from thence to

me, and received this moment. Upon my arrival at Fort Sandusky on the morning of the 3d instant, I found that major [George] Croghan, conformable to those principles which are held sacred in the American army, had caused all the care to be taken of the wounded prisoners that his situation would permit. Having with me my hospital surgeon, he was particularly charged to attend to them, and I am warranted in the belief that every aid that surgical skill could give was afforded. They have been liberally furnished too with every article necessary in their situation which our hospital stores could supply.

Having referred to my government for orders respecting the disposition of the prisoners, I cannot with propriety comply with your request for an immediate exchange.

But I assure you, sir, that as far as it depends upon me, the course of treatment which has been commenced towards them, whilst in my possession, will be continued.

I have the honor to be, sir, your humble servant,

WM. H. HARRISON
Maj. Gen. commanding 8th U. S. District

To General PROCTOR

SHELBY TO HARRISON

FRANKFORT Aug 11th 1813

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book A" 151

DEAR SIR

I think it my duty to apprise you of every occurrence relative to the reinforcing you from Kentucky.

When my address of the 31st July to the militia of this State was first published (of which I inclose you a copy) [see July 31 above] the public spirit of this country as usual flared out & it was expected every where that five Thousand men & probably a much greater number of volunteers would turn out & go with me to reinforce you it being just such a tower as they had cried out for & often solicited me to attempt. But their ardour has greatly subsided & the inquiry from all points is what pay are we to receive, shall we get paid for our lost horses and is forage laid in on the way for them &c. I am greatly mortified at the present prospect, but shall continue to exert every power to get out as large a force

as possible. There is a much greater degree of public spirit on the North side of the Kentucky River than on the other. I have this day ordered a draft on the South side of Kentucky for 1500 men to be taken from the bounds in which the former 1500 men were drafted that were discharged in consequence of your letter to me of the 21st of April last. I hope that this step will produce that number from the southern side of the Kentucky, & that probably one thousand volunteers will turn out on the north side—I never have been so far disappointed in the patriotism of my countrymen before & am at a loss for what cause to attribute their backwardness all at once. The 1500 to be drafted are to rendezvous at George Town in this State on the tenth day of next month, and the necessary arrangements in the quartermaster line will be requisite for their advance.

I have admitted in the order for the draft that all who come forward & join the mounted volunteers from the south side of Kentucky, may be considered as a part of the quota required by the draft, & I flatter myself this proposition will induce many to come on from that quarter to the General rendezvous on the 31st inst., at Newport.

I beg leave to remind you once more of the importance of having forage laid in on the way.

I shall apprise you from time to time of the prospects which I have relative to my success in obtaining men, to the end that if they don't meet your expectation you can look to other sources for relief.

The mail is this moment closing & only affords me time to conclude with sincere wishes for your welfare & prosperity

And remain your obt friend &c.,

ISAAC SHELBY

To Majr. Gen. WM. HENRY HARRISON,

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No.80)

Head Quarters SENECA TOWNS 11th August 1813

Har. Pa. 131-134

SIR:

Genl. [Henry] Proctor returned to Malden on the 6th or 7th and excepting a very few I believe that all his Indians have also retired some of their signs are occasionally seen, but

they have become so shy that they attempt no mischief. A party of our friendly Indians picked up near the Lake, 4 British Soldiers who had made their escape from the ditch at Fort Sandusky, but were unable to overtake their own army.

A British Lieutenant accompanied by a surgeon arrived at Sandusky yesterday morning with a Flag and letter from Genl. Proctor and were very improperly sent to me without any previous notice. I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of his letter and my answer. [see Aug. 7 and 10 above] The prisoners that are not wounded, 16 in number have been sent to Upper Sandusky. What disposition will you have made of them?

When the news of the invasion of this state was made known an immense number of militia was put in motion by Govr. Meigs and the different general officers. Having received a letter from Govr. Meigs informing me of his arrival at Upper Sandusky with the advanced detachments. I met him there on the 6th Inst and addressed a letter [see Aug. 6 above] to him advising him to dismiss all the militia excepting ten companies of one hundred each, who might be retained untill it could be ascertained whether the whole or any part would be wanted. Major [A. H.] Holmes has forwarded the Return of all the Troops excepting those at Fort Meigs. The Return from thence was received this morning and will be forwarded by the next mail, from this you will perceive that it will require at least 4000 militia to make up the compliment of 7000 destined for the expedition into Canada.

The Ohio Militia which were called into service last spring will all be discharged in ten days and there will remain only about 650 of the Kentucky Militia. I have required Govr. Shelby to furnish twenty companies of 100 men each. He is now raising them and will command them in person. They will come in on Horses and send them back.

Commodore Perry sailed from Erie on the 5th Inst. in pursuit of the enemy. I should have no apprehension for the issue of the conflict if he had a proper compliment of seamen and officers. They are he informs me greatly deficient and an eye witness writes that there is not more than half the proper number of good seamen. He has some volunteers from the Pensylvania Regt. of Militia at Erie. The rest have resolved "that they will come on to join this army as ordered provided they get two months pay beforehand".

Permit me to solicit your attention to the staff of this army. Major [Levi] Hukill and Major [A. H.] Holmes will not be able for a considerable time to reduce into order the chaos that reigns from the entire want of experience in the officers of the new Regiments. Col. [Edmund P.] Gaines who has lately been promoted to the Command of the 25th Regt. is here. He would make a most excellent Adjutant General and will serve in that capacity unless his regiment is full in which case he would prefer to join it.

My Aid de Camp Lieut. [John] O'Fallon is a 2nd Lieut. in the 1st Regt. permit me to request that he be transfered to the 24th Regt. with the same rank of that of 1st. Lieut. if the vacancies of that grade are not all taken up by the promotion of the Subalterns heretofore in that Regiment.

I have the Honor to be with the greatest respect Yr. Humbel Servant.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble Genl. JOHN ARMSTRONG *Secretary of War*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

No 81

Head Quarters SENECA TOWNS 12th Augt. 1813

Har. Pa. 135

SIR:

Major [Levi] Hukill has written to the Inspector Genl. for blank inspection Returns but he has received none. Will you be pleased to give directions for having them forwarded by the express mail. There is difficulty in getting these printed in this country.

The British Surgeon's Mate who came with the Flag acknowledges that they lost 91 killed and missing. He did not mention the number of wounded that has been taken off, but said that several had died before they got to the Lake. Major Muir one of their best officers was supposed to be mortally wounded.

I have the honor to be with great respect, Sir Yr. Humble Servant.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble. Genl. JOHN ARMSTRONG, *Secretary of War*

HARRISON TO VOORHIES

Head Quarters, SENECA TOWN, August 18, 1813

Am. Sta. Pa. Mil. Aff. I, 653

SIR:

As you have reported yourself to me as the authorized agent of the contractor, I must request that you take immediate measures for having two hundred thousand rations of salted pork or bacon prepared at Cleveland, Sandusky, or some other place on the lake, to be used when the army shall arrive on the Canada shore. Should you think proper to supply the other component parts, and make the two hundred thousand complete rations, you are at liberty to do so. You have the flour at Cleveland, and as it will not be wanted there, it can be used for the above purpose; however, the pork must be procured at any rate.

I am, very respectfully, your humble servant

WILLIAM H. HARRISON

Maj. PETER G. VOORHIES Agt. for ORR and GREELY

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No 83)

Head Quarters SENECA TOWN August 22nd 1813

Har. Pa. 136-7

SIR:

I returned this day from a visit to Commodore Perry who is now with his fleet (10 sails) off the mouth of the Sandusky bay. He received an accession of officers and seamen before he left Erie but he is still very deficient in both in the number and quality of the latter. To remedy this defect as far as possible, I have furnished him with one hundred of my best men, including all the seamen that could be found in the companies here.

An order has also been forwarded to Fort Meigs to select all of the latter that are there and send them down to the Commodore at the mouth of the Miami bay.

The Commodore and myself have agreed upon the propriety of his proceeding immediately off Malden to brave the enemies' fleet, and if possible bring them to action before he shall be encumbered with our troops. I am affraid that they will not fight him at present, but his appearance before Malden will

have a great effect upon the Indians, between whom and their allies very serious disputes have arisen. Three Wyandot Indians, in whom I have entire confidence have been sent by their old chief the Crane upon my suggestion to widen the breach and endeavour to prevail upon them to return home and suffer the contest to be decided by the British and us alone.

I am exerting every nerve to complete my preparations for crossing the Lake as soon as I am reinforced by two thousand of the Kentucky militia. That number is indispensible from the sickly state of the regular troops, of whom I shall think myself fortunate to take with me two-fifths of the aggregate amount.

I shall do myself the honor to write to you more fully by the next mail.

I have the honor to be, Sir with great respect your humble Servant.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble. JOHN ARMSTRONG Esquire *Secretary at War*

AARON GREELY TO HARRISON

CAMP HARRISON, CLEVELAND, August 25, 1813

Am. Sta. Pa. Mil. Aff. I, 653

SIR:

I have taken the liberty to send you enclosed a correct statement of the component parts of rations at this time ready to be delivered in good order along the lake coast, on the navigable waters within this district; the principal part of which are at this place. All the component parts of the rations can be delivered almost exclusively at this post immediately, except the salted pork, which will fall short of the two hundred thousand rations about thirty thousand; this deficiency is not in the country, neither can it be procured in time at this season of the year. If you should think it proper to take salted beef in lieu of this deficiency, I have the barrels and salt on hand, and can deliver to you five hundred barrels prime beef, in good order, and warranted to keep good until the first of May next. Ten day's notice will be sufficient I have contracted for ten thousand pounds of bacon; the time in which it was to be delivered has expired since the 20th instant. I expect it every day, and am confident it will be here in time.

I have a number of bakers employed in baking biscuit, of which I can immediately furnish you with fifty thousand rations, warranted to keep good for one year. Colonel [B. G.] Orr's long stay in the city of Washington prevented my returning here before you left this to attend to your orders.

I experience a very serious difficulty for the want of stores for the provisions. Was Mr. Duncan Reed, the acting Deputy Quartermaster, more attentive to his business a few boards might be procured to cover those provisions which are now lying exposed to the storms on the lake shore, and the evil in a great degree be remedied. The regiment of Pennsylvania militia, under the command of Colonel Rees Hill, amounting to about six hundred and fifty men, will arive here on Sunday next. I shall ever endeavor at all times to obey you and comply with your requisitions, and exert myself for the good of the public service.

I am, with pleasure, respectfully your obedient humble servant,

AARON GREELY

His Excellency WM. H. HARRISON *Maj. Gen. Com. N. W. Army*

CROGHAN TO EDITOR OF LIBERTY HALL

LOWER SANDUSKY, August 27, 1813

Cincinnati *Liberty Hall, Sept. 14, 1813*

I have with much regret seen in some of the public prints, such misrepresentations respecting my refusal to evacuate this post, as are calculated not only to injure me in the estimation of military men, but also to excite unfavorable impressions as to the propriety of General Harrison's conduct relative to this affair.

His character as a military man is too well established to need my approbation or support. But his public services entitle him at least to common justice, this affair does not furnish cause of reproach. If public opinion has been lately misled respecting his late conduct, it will require but a moment's cool, dispassionate reflection, to convince them of its propriety. The measures recently adopted by him, so far from deserving censure, are the clearest proofs of his keen penetration and able Generalship. It is true that I did not proceed immediately to execute his order to evacuate this post; but this dis-

obedience was not, as some would wish to believe, the result of a fixed determination to maintain the post contrary to his most positive orders, as will appear from the following detail, which is given to explain my conduct.

About 10 o'clock on the morning of the 30th ultimo, a letter from the Adjutant General's office, dated Seneca Town, July 29, 1813, was handed me by Mr. [John] Conner, ordering me to abandon this post, burn it, and retreat that night to headquarters. On the reception of the order I called a council of officers, in which it was determined not to abandon the place, at least until the further pleasure of the General should be known, as it was thought an attempt to retreat in the open day, in the face of a superior force of the enemy would be more hazardous than to remain in the fort, under all its disadvantages. I therefore wrote a letter to the General, couched in such terms as I thought were calculated to deceive the enemy should it fall into his hands, which I thought more than probable—as well as to inform the General, should it be so fortunate as to reach him, that I would wait to hear from him, before I should proceed to execute his order. This letter, contrary to my expectations was received by the General, who, not knowing what reasons urged me to write in a tone so decisive, concluded very rationally that the manner of it was demonstrative of the most positive determination to disobey his order under any circumstance. I was therefore suspended from the command of the fort, and ordered to Head quarters, But on explaining to the General my reason for not executing his orders, and my object in using the style I had done, he was so perfectly satisfied with the explanation, that I was immediately reinstated in the command.

It will be recollected that the order above alluded to, was written on the night previous to my receiving it—had it been delivered to me, as was intended, that night, I should have obeyed it without hesitation; its not reaching me in time, was the only reason which induced me to consult my officers on the propriety of waiting the General's further orders.

It has been stated, also, that upon my representations of my ability to maintain the post, the General altered his determination to abandon it. This is incorrect. No such representation was ever made. And the last order I received from the General, was precisely the same as that first given, viz.

'That if I discovered the approach of a large British force by water, (presuming that they would bring heavy artillery,) time enough to effect a retreat, I was to do so; but if I could not retreat with safety, to defend the post to the last extremity.'

A day or two before the enemy appeared before fort Meigs, the General had reconnoitred the surrounding ground, and being informed that the hill on the opposite side of Sandusky completely commanded the fort, I offered to undertake, with the troops under my command, to remove it to that side. The General, upon reflection, thought it best not to attempt it, as he believed that if the enemy again appeared on this side of the lake, it would be before the work could be finished.

It is useless to disguise the fact, that this fort is commanded by the points of high ground around it; a single stroke of the eye made this clear to me the first time I had occasion to examine the neighborhood, with a view of discovering the relative strength and weakness of the place.

It would be insincere to say that I am not flattered by the many handsome things which have been said about the defence which was made by the troops under my command; but I desire no plaudits which are bestowed upon me, at the expense of General Harrison.

I have at all times enjoyed his confidence so far as my rank in the army entitled me to it. And on proper occasions received his marked attention. I have felt the warmest attachment for him as a man, and my confidence in him as an able commander remains unshaken. I feel every assurance that he will at all times do me ample justice; and nothing could give me more pain than to see his enemies seize upon this occasion to deal out their unfriendly feelings and acrimonious dislike—and as long as he continues (as in my humble opinion he has hitherto done) to make the wisest arrangements and most judicious disposition, which the forces under his command will justify, I shall not hesitate to unite with the army in bestowing upon him that confidence which he so richly merits, and which has on no occasion been witheld.

Your friend,

GEORGE CROGHAN *Maj 17 Inf*

Field Officers to Harrison

Lower Seneca Town, Aug. 29, 1813

Dawson, *Harrison, 409*

The undersigned, being the general, field, and staff officers, with that portion of the north-western army under the immediate command of General Harrison have observed with regret and surprise that charges as improper in the form as in the substance have been made against the conduct of General Harrison during the recent investment of Lower Sandusky. At another time, and under ordinary circumstances, we should deem it improper and unmilitary thus publicly to give any opinion respecting the movements of the army. But public confidence in the commanding General is essential to the success of the campaign, and causelessly to withdraw or to withhold that confidence, is more than individual injustice; it becomes a serious injury to the service. A part of the force, of which the American army consists, will derive its greatest strength and efficacy from a confidence in the commanding General, and from those moral causes which accompany and give energy to public opinion. A very erroneous idea respecting the number of the troops then at the disposal of the General, has doubtless been the primary cause of those unfortunate and unfounded impressions. A sense of duty forbids us from giving a detailed view of our strength at that time. In that respect, we have fortunately experienced a very favorable change. But we refer the public to the General's official report to the secretary of war, of major [George] Croghan's successful defence of Lower Sandusky. In that will be found a statement of our whole disposable force; and he who believes that with such a force, and under the circumstances which then occurred, General Harrison ought to have advanced upon the enemy must be left to correct his opinion in the school of experience.

On a review of the course then adopted, we are decidedly of the opinion, that it was such as was dictated by military wisdom, and by a due regard to our own circumstances and to the situation of the enemy. The reasons for this opinion it is evidently improper now to give, but we hold ourselves ready at a future period, and when other circumstances shall have intervened, to satisfy every man of its correctness who is anxious to investigate and willing to receive the truth.

And with a ready acquiescence, beyond the mere claims of military duty, we are prepared to obey a General, whose measures meet our most deliberate approbation, and merit that of his country.

LEWIS CASS, *Brig Gen. U. S. A.*
SAMUEL WELLS, *Col. 17, R. U. S. I*
THOS. D. OWINGS, *Col. 28 R. U. S. I*
GEORGE PAULL, *col. 17 R. U. S. I.*
J. C. BARTLETT, *Col. Q. M. G.*
JAMES V. BALL, *Lieut. Col.*
ROBERT MORRISON, *Lieut Col.*
GEORGE TODD, *Maj. 19 R. U. S. I.*
JAMES SMILEY, *Maj 28 R. U. S. I.*
WILLIAM TRIGG, *Maj, 28 R. U. S. I.*
RD. GRAHAM, *Maj 17 R. U. S. I.*
GEORGE CROGHAN, *Maj. 17 R. U. S. I.*
L. HUKILL, *Maj & As. Insp. Gen.*
E. D. WOOD, *Maj Engineers*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 84)

Head Quarters SENECA TOWN August 29th 1813

Har. Pa. 138-140

SIR:

An indisposition of which I am now getting the better prevented me from writing to you by last mail.

I shall be able to embark some day between the 10th and 15th Proximo with upwards of 2000 regular troops and three thousand militia. Every exertion has been and is continued to be made to prepare for the contemplated offensive operations, but as we could not navigate the Lakes untill our Flotilla came up nor accumulate any power on its margin the stores that were at Upper Sandusky and Fort Winchester during Proctor's late invasions it will take the time I have mentioned before the embarkation can be effected. It might be facilitated by moving the troops that are here immediately to the Lake and there waiting for the Kentucky Militia. But it is extremely unhealthy on the edge of the southern shore from Huron to the River Raison that the most fatal effects would follow the keeping the Troops upon it even for a few days. You can form no correct estimate of the dreadful effects of

the immediate body of stagnant water with which the vicinity of the Lake abounds, from the state of the troops at Lower Sandusky upwards of ninety are this morning reported on the sick, out of about 220. Those at Fort Meigs are all much better. This position is the most healthfull in the whole country. I am removing part of the sick from Fort Meigs here and shall place the ill men upon Edwards Island as soon as the fleet returns. The Commodore has been absent for seven days. A Frenchman from the River Raison who arrived at Fort Meigs the day before yesterday says that he was off the mouth of the Straight Thursday early but that the British fleet remained in the Harbour. This Frenchman is a respectable citizen of the Michigan Territory (Col. Navarre) and on the way from Fort Meigs saw all the Wyandots and Shawneese with their chief on the Mission to the Hostile Indians, I expect by them important information. Should they arrive before the mail closes it shall be communicated.

I have the Honor to be with Great Respect Sir Your Humb. Svt

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble JOHN ARMSTRONG, Esqr. *Secretary of War*

SHELBY TO HARRISON

NEW PORT Sept 1st 1813 8 o'clock P. M.

From Governor Isaac Shelby's Letter Book B, 108

DEAR GENL.

I have now the pleasure to acquaint you that I arrived here yesterday about 10 o'clock and the mounted volunteers have been crossing the Ohio since early on Monday by Companies. I have ordered the whole to concentrate at Springfield where I shall halt a day or two for some ammunition and hospital stores and endeavor to organize the army after which not a moment will be lost until I join you. my whole force as well as I can now judge will be about three thousand five hundred. They are all mounted and can reach you in ten or twelve days if we are not disappointed in forage &c. In a letter which I had the honour to address you shortly before I left Frankfort I took the liberty to recommend the calling on Governor Meigs for an additional force of his militia to enable you to make a sure stroke upon the enemy. I am still of the same opinion for although you may be restricted to a par-

ticular number to make the decent into Canada you ought to put nothing to hazard for should you even transend your power if we are fortunate your company will approve, the measure; and if otherwise we cannot complain, I shall be sorry to see any attempt made to invade the enemys country until we are prepared to hold every inch of ground that we may conquer—I am informed by a letter from your aid Major [David] Trimble of the 23rd ult., that some advance of pay would be made to the volunteers and that blankets could be furnished to such as were without any although I have not communicated the information to the troops it would be most grateful to them to receive a small advance and even a good blanket to some would be an object as many are poor men and the call has been so sudden as not to afford them the chance of supplying themselves before they started—

I shall be highly gratified to hear from you on my march and to be apprised of so much of your view as may be proper & safe to communicate at the same time believe that every precaution is necessary to avoid any intelligence falling into the hands of the enemy by which they could counteract your design. Majr. [Thomas] Bodley informed me that there was a large quantity of corn at Cleveland would it not be adviseable to have a portion of it forwarded to Sandusky. I beg you to reflect how our horses are to be supported to send them back will be out of the question I would also suggest that there is a deficiency of arms at this place by about seven hundred. I should like to be informed at what point we can be supplied. I shall cross the Ohio early in the morning on my way to join you.

I have the honour to be Your mo. obt.

ISAAC SHELBY

Mjr. Genl. WM. HENRY HARRISON

HARRISON TO MEIGS

Head-Quarters, SENECA TOWNS September 4th, 1813

Niles' Register V, 86

DEAR SIR:

Information recently received has satisfied me, that the Delaware Indians near Piqua are in great danger from the resentment of the people in that quarter.

I regret that any portion of the community should thus ven-

ture to compromise the public faith and to violate engagements solemnly entered into. I regret it the more, as the policy on the part of the enemy to produce such a state of things and to excite discord and collisions between our own people and the Indians attached to our cause, is too manifest to escape observation, and facts which have come to my knowledge convince me that this obvious course of policy has been adopted, and unless its effects are immediately checked, it promises to be but too successful. I trust the authority of your excellency, aided by the good sense of the community, will be sufficient to prevent those Indians from being sacrificed to false impressions and angry passions. Did I suppose that any of these were concerned in the recent murders and depredations committed upon the frontiers I would lose no time in procuring their apprehension and bringing them to justice. I am assured by their chiefs, now here, that in case it can be proven, they will immediately apprehend and surrender them to the civil authority of the country. This is all the most rigid justice can demand. The conduct of the Shawanes upon a late and similar occasion, ought to satisfy every one that they are disposed to listen to and redress every complaint when properly made and supported. When one of their young men in July last shot one of our citizens, he was immediately apprehended by the chiefs and surrendered to general [Thomas S.] Wingate at St. Mary's; two of these very Delaware Indians who have been most strongly suspected, have lately proven their fidelity in a very exemplary manner, by the rescue of one of our officers from a party of hostile Indians. I request your excellency to take immediate steps to afford security to these people. They have thrown themselves upon us for protection. The faith of the country has been solemnly pledged that this protection shall be afforded them.

Many of their warriors are now here rendering important service to the army. If any man has just cause of complaint against them, let him come forward; he shall be heard and redressed. Were I not correctly convinced that the supicions against these people are groundless, I should be one of the last men in the country to lend them countenance and support.

But a long acquaintance with them gives me some right to judge, and their recent conduct, present situation and future hopes, convince me that their fidelity to the United States is

unquestionable. To attempt indiscriminately to murder these people, would inflict a blot upon the national honor which would never be effaced. It would drive every Indian, in their own defence, to take up arms against us, and it would afford to the enemy a subject of rejoicing to find us pursuing a course of conduct, only to be paralleled by the tragic scenes of Hampton. I yet hope the information I have received upon this subject may prove erroneous, and that my countrymen will still manifest sacred regard to public faith, which has heretofore characterized the government and community. But the crisis is so important, and the subject so interesting in every point of view, that I should have deemed myself culpable had I not requested you to direct your attention to it.

In a personal interview with your excellency, I could give you many reasons for my opinions, but as they ought not to be committed to paper, I must rest satisfied with making this communication.

I am dear sir with great regard,

Your humble servant,

WM. HENRY HARRISON

His Excellency R. J. MEIGS

P. S. I have been informed that the man whose wife was killed near to Piqua asserts, that he knew the Indian who killed her to be a Delaware. There are persons now here who were at Brownstown when her scalp was brought in by a party of the prophet's Indians.

B. G. ORR TO HARRISON

SENEKA TOWNS 7 Sept. 1813.

Har. Pa. 141-143

SIR:

When in Washington lately on the subject of the protested drafts of the contractors I urged to the Secretary of War the necessity of devising some means to prevent the recurrence of wants so fatal to their credit and possibly injurious to the public interest unable to ascertain what the wants of the army you command might be and unwilling to give to any one the power of drawing *ad libitum* on the public treasury he told me I must submit to you an estimate of the cost of each requisition that might be made on me for which when approved by

you as reasonable, I might draw without danger of protests. For this purpose I now enclose you a view of what I suppose the current issues to recruiting and marching parties thro the state of Ohio for the present month will amount to as well as the recent requisition for 300,000 rations for the proposed invasion of the enemys country. I hope you will find it satisfactory and that notwithstanding the want of instruction from the Secretary on the subject as it does not increase your responsibility you will not decline this the Secretary's own arrangment.

I have the honor to be Sir with Respect Yr. Most. Ob. St.

BENJ. G. ORR

Maj. Genl. HARRISON

Sept 7, 1813

THE CONTRACTORS ESTIMATE

I suppose the current issues to recruiting and marching parties throughout the state of Ohio will for the month of Sept. amount to $5000

300,000 rations recently required for the army in its operations against the enemy I suppose will cost 55000

60000

SINK A TOWN [Seneca Town] 7th Sept. 1813

The above estimate amounting to sixty thousand dollars is respectfully submitted to the consideration of Genl. Harrison.

BENJ. G. ORR

One of the contractors for the 8th Military District

A true copy
JOHN O'FALLON, *A. D. Camp.*

Return of Provision now deposited at different places on the shore of Lake Erie for the use of the N. W. army by BENJ. G. ORR & AARON GREELY *Contractors* August 25th 1813

Pork		Flour		Whiskey		Soap		Candies	
Bbl	Rations	Bbl	Rations	Gals	Ration	Pound	Ration	Pound	Rations
513	136458	761	132220	1933	61856	2000	50000	350	23333
7	1862	97	16878	66	2112				
18	4788	80	13972	3000	96000				
6	1596	25	4366						
544	144,704	963	168136	4992	159968	2000	50000	350	23333

Vinegar		Salt		
Gals.	Rations	Bbl	Rations	At what place deposited
1100	110000	65	520000	Cleaveland
		10	80,000	Huron
				Grand River
				Vermillion
1100	110000	75	600000	

Signed,

Orr & Greeley Contractor for the N. W. Army

(A true Copy)

JOHN O'FALLON, *A. D. Camp.*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

Head Quarters SENECA TOWN 8th Sept. 1813

Har. Pa. 144-147

SIR:

I have the honor to inform you that I am now in complete readiness to embark the troops the moment Govr. Shelby shall arrive. I shall march from hence for the margin of the Lake in three days and shall lose no time in prosecuting the contemplated offensive measures.

The Batallion of the U. S. Rifle Regiment and the recruits from Knoxville for the 24th Regiment will I fear not arrive in time but we must do without them.

Upon reference to my late letters I find that I have not communicated the result of the mission sent by the Wyandot chief to the hostile Indians. Their arrival at Brownstown was immediately communicated to the British and they were obliged to deliver their speech which was intended for the Wyandots alone to a general council of all the chiefs at which [Matthew] Elliott and [Alexander] McKee were present. The answer was given by Round Head who is entirely in the British interest and was such as Elliott dictated.

A private message was however sent by Walk in the Water the principal chief of the British Wyandots and a man of good character that he would use his utmost exertions to induce the Indians to abandon the British and that he had determined not to fight us but upon our advance to seize the Huron church at Sandwitch with all the warriors he could engage to

assist him and defend himself against the British and their Indians.

Commodore Perry has just sent me three American citizens who came from Detroit nine days ago. They had taken great pains to ascertain the enemies force previously to their coming off. They make the number of Indians from 1800 to 2000 militia 1000 Regulars 800 effectives.

The Billious and intermitant fevers are the worst enemies we have to encounter the number of sick decreases here but at Fort Meigs and Lower Sandusky nearly half the men are on the sick report.

Major Haines has resigned the appointment of Assistant Adjt. Genl. I had no alternative but to accept Col. [Edmund P.] Gains in the Execution of the duties of Adjt. Genl. having no other officer of the line capable of performing the duties of that office.

I have the Honor to enclose you the copy of a letter from Mr. [B. G.] Orr the contractor. [Sept 7 above] Having received no directions from you on the subject on which it is written I could not authorise the drafts he speaks of. I think it proper however to state that I have called upon him for 300,000 rations to be issued on the Canada shore but of this quantity he has on hand much the greater part which was purchased at Cleveland or near it with the money which he received for the bills he drew on your department previously to his going to the seat of government the last time. I enclose the schedule of the provisions which his partner Mr. [Aaron] Greely returned as being on hand on the 25th ultimo at Cleveland and in the neighbourhood of that place. In a letter from Mr. Orr of the 29th he contradicts Mr. Greely's report of the pork on hand making it two hundred barrells less, but there are at Lower Sandusky thirty-five barrells the property of the contractor which are not included in the return. One hundred and sixty five barrels of pork then deducted from the schedule it exhibits a true state of the provisions on hand to answer the demand of the 300,000 rations. the ballance must be procured by purchase. I am thus particular to enable you to judge of the sum which it may be necessary to advance to Mr. Orr. I demanded the 300,000 rations to ensure a supply upon our first arrival in Canada by uniting his exertions with those of our commissary.

I have the honor to enclose you a copy of a letter from the Genl. and field officers upon the subject of hospital stores for the army. I agree with them entirely as to the deficiency of those stores.

I have the Honor to be with Great Respect Sir Your Hum. Svt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble JOHN ARMSTRONG Esqr. *Secretary at War*

PERRY TO HARRISON

U. S. Brig NIAGARA, off the WESTERN SISTER &c.
September 10th, 1813. 4 P. M.

McAfee, *History*, *354*

DEAR GENERAL:

We have met the enemy and they are ours—two ships, two brigs, one schooner and a sloop.

Yours with great respect and esteem.

OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

HARRISON TO SHELBY

Head Quarters, SENECA, 12th September, 1813

McAfee, *History*, *353*

You will find arms at Upper Sandusky; also a considerable quantity at Lower Sandusky. I set out from this place in an hour. Our fleet has beyond all doubt met that of the enemy. The day before yesterday an incessant and tremendous cannonading was heard in the direction of Malden by a detachment of troops coming from fort Meigs. It lasted two hours. I am all anxiety for the event. There will be no occasion for your halting here. Lower Sandusky affords fine grazing. With respect to a station for your horses, there is the best in the world immediately at the place of embarkation. The Sandusky bay, lake Erie, and Portage river form between them a peninsula, the isthmus of which is only one mile and a half across. A fence of that length, and a sufficient guard left there, would make all the horses of the army safe. It would enclose fifty or sixty thousand acres, in which are many cultivated fields, which having been abandoned, are now grown up with the finest grass. Your sick had better be left at Upper Sandusky or here.

HARRISON

PERRY TO SECRETARY OF NAVY

Sept. 12, 1813

McAfee, *History*, 359

SIR:

It has pleased the Almighty to give the arms of the U. States, a signal victory over their enemies on this lake. The British squadron, consisting of two brigs, two ships, one schooner, and one sloop have this moment, surrendered to the force under my command, after a sharp conflict.

PERRY

PERRY TO HARRISON

United States schooner ARIEL, September 15, 1813

Niles' Register V, 263

SIR:

The very great assistance in the action of the 10th inst., derived from those men you were pleased to send on board the squadron, render it a duty to return you my sincere thanks for so timely a reinforcement. In fact sir, I may say, without those men the victory would not have been achieved; and equally I assure you, that those officers and men behaved as became good soldiers and seamen. Those who were under my immediate observation evinced great ardor and bravery. Captain [Henry B.] Brevort, of the second regiment of infantry, serving on board the Niagara, I beg leave to recommend particularly to your notice; he is a brave and gallant officer, and as far as I am capable of judging an excellent one. I am convinced you will present the merit of this officer to the view of the honorable secretary of war, as I shall to the honorable secretary of the navy.

Very respectfully, I am sir, Your obedient servant,

OLIVER H. PERRY

Major Gen. WM. H. HARRISON,
Commander-in-chief of N. W. Army

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 86)

Head Quarters Mouth of PORTAGE RIVER on Lake Erie

15th Sept. 1813

Har. Pa. 148, 149

SIR:

You will have been informed from the letter of Commodore

Perry to the Secretary of the Navy of the Brilliant naval victory obtained by him and the capture of the whole of the enemies flotilla on this lake. I arrived here the day before yesterday with a part of the troops from Seneca town and this morning Genl. [Lewis] Cass has brought on the remainder. Governor [Isaac] Shelby has also arrived with his militia. We are busily engaged embarking the stores and artillery and by the day after tomorrow the whole will be afloat. Genl. [Duncan] McArthur will join me the day after at the Bass Islands with the troops from Fort Meigs and on the following night if the weather permits we shall sail for the Canada shore. As soon as I have driven the enemy from Malden and Detroit I shall despatch a detachment for the reduction of Mackinac and St. Josephs and will expect your orders for my further movements. The upper part of the province of Upper Cannada being cleared of the enemy unless it should appear expedient to pursue the Indians the army under my command might move down the lake to long point or below it and co-operate with that under Genl. [James] Wilkinson. From my present impressions with regard to our affairs in that quarter I should if I considered myself authorised to do so immediately proceed to the lower end of the lake. Commodore Perry had out with him in the late action about one hundred and thirty of my men, he speaks in the highest terms of their conduct. Maj. [E. D.] Wood had arrived at this place with two companies when the Commodore returned to Put in Bay he immediately sent him a reinforcement of fifty men which were of great service in securing the prisoners.

I have the Honor to be with great respect Sir Your Humbl. Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble. JNO. ARMSTRONG. *Secretary of War*

SPEECH OF TECUMSEH

AMHERSTSBERG, Sept. 18, 1813

Niles' Register, V, 174

In the name of the Indian chiefs and warriors, to major-general Proctor, as the representative of their great father—the king.

FATHER, listen to your children! You have them now all before you.

The war before this, our British father gave the hatchet to his red children, when our chiefs were alive. They are now dead. In that war, our father was thrown on his back by the Americans, and our father took them by the hand without our knowledge; and we are afraid that our father will do so again at this time.

Summer before last, when I came forward with my red brethren, and was ready to take up the hatchet in favor of our British father, we were told not to be in a hurry, that he had not yet determined to fight the Americans.

Listen! When war was declared, our father stood up and gave us the tomahawk, and told us that he was then ready to strike the Americans; that he wanted our assistance and that he would certainly get us our lands back, which the Americans had taken from us.

Listen! You told us, at that time, to bring forward our families to this place; and we did so; and you promised to take care of them, and that they should want for nothing, while the men would go and fight the enemy. That we need not trouble ourselves about the enemy's garrison; that we knew nothing about them, and that our father would attend to that part of the business. You also told your red children, that you would take care of your garrison here, which made our hearts glad.

Listen! When we were last to the Rapids, it is true we gave you little assistance. It is hard to fight people who live like ground hogs.

Father listen! Our fleet has gone out; we know they have fought; we have heard the great guns; but know nothing of what has happened to our father with one arm. Our ships have gone one way, and we are much astonished to see our father tying up everything and preparing to run away the other, without letting his red children know what his intentions are. You always told us to remain here and take care of our lands; it made our hearts glad to hear that was your wish. Our great father, the king, is our head, and you represent him. You always told us, that you would never draw your foot off British ground; but now, father we see you are drawing back, and we are sorry to see our father doing so without seeing the enemy. We must compare our father's conduct to a fat animal, that carries its tail upon its back, but when affrighted, he drops it between his legs and runs off.

Listen Father! The Americans have not yet defeated us by land; neither are we sure that they have done so by water; we, therefore, wish to remain here, and fight our enemy, if they should make their appearance. If they defeat us, we will then retreat with our father.

At the battle of the Rapids last war, the Americans certainly defeated us; and when we retreated to our father's fort at that place the gates were shut against us. We were afraid that it would now be the case; but instead of that we now see our British father preparing to march out of his garrison.

Father! You have got the arms and ammunition which our great father sent for his red children. If you have an idea of going away, give them to us, and you may go and welcome, for us. Our lives are in the hands of the Great Spirit. We are determined to defend our lands, and if it be his will we wish to leave our bones upon them.

Harrison to Secretary of War

Head Quarters Kingston 19th Sept. 1813

Har. Pa. 187-191

Sir:

The centre division of the Upper Canada army is placed in a situation very critical and one novel in the system of war that of investing a force vastly superior in numbers within a strongly intrenched position. It was adopted and has been maintained from a confident expectation that with the cooperation of the squadron under your command a combined attack ere this could have been effected on the enemy at Fort George with every prospect of success. To the local disadvantages of the position occupied by our army have unhappily been added disease and desertion to a degree calling for immediate remedy. We are therefore required to proceed with the Fleet under your command with the least possible delay to the head of the Lake affording sufficient convoy to the small vessels containing those stores and supplies of which the army is in the most pressing want. Upon your arrival near the Head Quarters of the Center Division you will consult with Major General De Rottenburg who will unite in his person the civil and military command in upper Canada upon my withdrawing from the provinces. Upon the eligibility of a combined attack for the purpose of dislodging the enemy from the position of Fort George by a rapid forward movement of the army bringing up in Battery at the same time the heavy ordnance mortars and howitzers now embarked. This attack must be supported by the countenance of your squadron and the fire of such vessels as are armed with a description of ordnance favourable to it. Should this attempt appear to you to be attended with too great hazard to the squadron under your command, under the

possible circumstance of the enemy's appearing on the Lake you will in that case distinctly state your sentiments to Major General De Rottenburg who will immediately upon ascertaining your inability to assist him to take measures for evacuating the position he now occupies in the execution of which movement you will give his army every support and assistance consistent with the safety of your vessels and having performed this service you will pursue such measures as shall appear most probable speedily to ensure the acquisition of the naval ascendancy. You are already acquainted with the decided line of conduct which I wish to be observed on Lake Erie by Captain [Robert H.] Barclay and you will not fail to impress on that officer the absolute necessity of regaining the naval superiority and to preserve uninterrupted the intercourse between Amhurstburgh and Long Point in order that the supplies and stores in depot at the latter place and at the Head of the Lake may be transported in safety to the Right Division.

The Flotilla of Transports on Lake Ontario are to be kept employed as long as the season will admit in the conveyance of the provisions and other supplies collected at Kingston and destined for the Right and Center Division of the army and they are to receive from your force the necessary protection.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most Obedient and Humble Servant

GEORGE PREVOST, *Commander of the Forces*

To Commodore SIR JAMES LUCAS YEO.

Letter found amongst Genl. Proctors papers from Sir George Provost to Sir Jas. Yeo. I shall send a detachment to Long Point to take or destroy any depot of provisions they may have there.

I have the honor to be with great respect sir your humb. servt

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble. J. M. ARMSTRONG Esqr. *Secy. of War.*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

War Department SACKETT'S HARBOR 22nd Sept. 1813

Har. Pa. 90

SIR

Information has reached me thro various but unofficial channels that Commodore Perry had captured the whole of the British fleet on Lake Erie. If this be true it is matter of much personal and public congratulation. It enables you to make sure of Malden and as a subsequent measure to carry your main body down the lake and by throwing yourself into De Rottenberg's rear to compel him to quit his new position

before fort George. After Genl. [James] Wilkinson shall have left that place there will be found on the two sides of the Niagara a force amounting to three thousand men who will be subjected to your order. By giving this new direction to your operations, ycu will readily perceive of how much more importance it is in the opinion of the Executive to beat or to expell the enemy from the country lying between the two lakes, Erie and Ontario, than to pursue the Indians into their woody and distant recesses. A few days will put us in motion from this point.

Major Genl. HARRISON

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

Head Quarters BASS ISLAND 22nd Sept. 1813

Har. Pa. 150

SIR:

The greater part of the troops are here with me and the whole will I believe be up by twelve o'clock. I shall proceed as far as the Middle Sister in the course of tonight and tomorrow and in the following night get so near the enemies coast as to land two or three vessels below Malden by eight o'clock in the morning. These prospects may however be retarded by adverse wind. Commodore Perry gives me every assistance in his power but his crews were so much cut up in the late action that he cannot navigate his vessels without the aid of my men. In obedience to your order to settle the accounts of the Kentucky militia for back rations I have appointed Lewis Sanders Esqr. a citizen of Lexington of the greatest respectability to do the business and have authorized him to draw upon you for the amount.

I have the Honor to be with great Respect your humbl. Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble JOHN ARMSTRONG Esq. *Secretary of War.*

PERRY TO SECRETARY OF NAVY

U. S. schooner ARIEL, MALDEN HARBOR,
23d Sept. 1813, 5 P. M.

Niles' Register V, 117

SIR:

I have the honor to acquaint you that the army under ma-

jor-general Harrison have this moment marched into Malden without opposition, and that the squadron are now at anchor off the town.

I have the honor to be etc.

To the Sec. of the Navy O. H. PERRY.

GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters on Board the U. S. AERIEL
September 27th 1813

Har. Pa. 153-160

As it is the intention of the General to land the army on the enemy's coast the following will be the order of debarkations of march and of battle:

The right wing of the army will be composed of the Kentucky volunteers under the command of his Excellency Governor Shelby acting as Major General. The left wing of the light corps of Lieut. Col. [James V.] Ball and the Brigades of General [Duncan] McArthur and [Lewis] Cass. This arrangement is made with a view to the localities of the ground upon which the troops are to act and the composition of the enemy's forces and is calculated in marching up the lake or strait to place our regular troops in the open ground on the lake, where they will probably be opposed by the British regulars, and the Kentucky volunteers in the woods which it is presumed will be occupied by the enemy's militia and Indians. When the signal is given for putting to the shore, the corps of Lt. Col. Ball will precede the left wing; the regiment of volunteer riflemen the right wing. These corps will land with the utmost celerity consistently with preservation of good Order and as soon as landed will seize the most favorable position for annoying the enemy and covering the disembarkation of the troops of the line. Genl. Cass's Brigade will follow Col. Balls corps and General Calimes [Calmes] the volunteer Rifflemen. The regiments will land and form in succession upon those which precede them. The right wing with its left in front displaying to the right and the left wing with its right in front displaying to the left. The Brigades of Genls. [John Edward] King, [James] Allen and [Samuel] Caldwell will form successively to the right of General Calmes. General McArthurs and [David] Chile's Brigades will form the re-

serve. The General will command in person the Brigades of Genls. Cass and Calmes assisted by Major General [William] Henry. His excellency Governor Shelby will have the immediate command of the three Brigades on the right assisted by Major Genl. [Joseph] Desha. As soon as the troops are disembarked the boats are to be immediately sent back to the fleet. It will be observed that the order of landing here prescribed is somewhat that of direct Eschellons deployed into line upon the advanced corps of the right and left wing. It is the intention of the General however that all the troops who are provided with boats, should land in as quick succession as possible, and the General Officers commanding towards the extremities of the line are authorised to deviate from the arrangement to counteract any movement of the enemy by landing any part of their commands, previously to the formation of the corps which is herein directed to precede them. The Corps of Lt. Colo. Ball and the Volunteer riffle regiment will maintain the position they occupy on landing until the troops of the line are formed to support them. They will then retire through the intervals of the line, or to the flanks and form in the rear of the line.

A detachment of artillery with a six four and three pounder and Howitzer will land with the advanced light corps the rest of the artillery will be held in reserve and landed at such points as Major [E. D.] Wood may direct. The point of landing for the reserve under Brigadier Genl. McArthur cannot now be designated it will be made to support any point of the line which may require aid or be formed on the flanks as circumstances may render necessary. The arrangement for landing the troops will be made entirely under the direction of an officer of the Navy whom Commodore Perry has been so obliging as to offer for that purpose. The debarkation of the troops will be covered by the cannon of the vessels. The troops being landed and the enemy driven off or not opposing the landing the army will change its front to the left and form in order of battle in the following manner: The two Brigades of regular troops and two of the Volunteers to be formed in two lines at right angles to the shore of the Lake. General McArthurs Brigade and Calmes to form the front line, and Cass and Chiles the second line; the regular troops still on the left, that flank of both lines resting on the shore the distance

between the two lines will be three hundred yards. The remaining three Brigades of Volunteers will be drawn up in a single line of two ranks, at right angles to the line of march its head upon the right of the front line forming a crotchet (*en potence*) with that line and extending beyond the second line. The Corps of Lt. Col. Ball will form the advance of the left wing at the distance of 300 yards, the regiment of Riffle Volunteers the advance of the right wing at the same distance.

Some light pieces of artillery will be placed in the road leading up the lake and at such other points as Major Wood may direct. When the order is given for marching the first and second lines will advance by files from the heads of companies in other words these two lines will form two columns marching by their flanks by companies at entire distances. The Three Brigades on the right flank, will be faced to the left and marched forward, the head of this column still forming *en potence* with the front line. It is probable that the two Brigades of the front line will extend from the lake some distance into the woods on the right flank and it is desirable it should do so. But should it be otherwise and the crochet or angle be at any time on the open ground His Excellency Governor Shelby will immediately prolong the front line to the right by adding to it as many companies of the leading brigade of the flank column as will bring the angle and consequently the flank column itself completely within the woods. It is to be presumed that the enemy will make their attack upon the army on its march that their regular troops will form their right upon the lake, their militia occupy the ground between the regulars and the woods and the Indians and the woods. The formation herein prescribed is intended to resist an arrangement of this kind—should the genl. conjecture on this subject prove correct as it must be evident that the right of the enemy cannot be turned, and on that wing his best troops must be placed it will be proper to refuse him our left and direct our principal effort to uncover the left flank of his regulars by driving off his militia. In the event here supposed therefore it will be proper to bring up a part or the whole of Genl. Cass's Brigade to assist the charge made by Genl. Calmes or that the former should change position with the Brigade of Volunteer in the second line. Should the General think it safe to order the whole of Cass's Brigade to the right

without replacing it with another Genl. Cass will march it to the right formed in oblique eschellons of companies. It will be the business of Genl. McArthur in the event of his wing being refused to watch the motions of the enemy (and with the assistance of the artillery) prevent his front line at least from interrupting the progress of our right. Should the enemys militia be defeated, the brigade of ours in advance will immediately wheel upon the flank of the British regulars, and Genl. McArthur will advance to attack them in front. In the mean time his Excellency Governor Shelby can use the Brigade in reserve of the second line to prolong the flank line from its front or left to reinforce any weak part of the line. In all cases where troops in advance are obliged to retire through those which are advancing to support them it will be done by companies in file which will retire through the intervals of the advancing line and will immediately form in the rear. The light troops will be particularly governed by this direction.

The disposition of the Troops on the right flank is such as the commanding general thinks best calculated to resist an attack from Indians which is only to be expected from that quarter. His Excellency govr. Shelby will however use his discretion in making any alteration which his experience and judgment may dictate Lt. Col. Ball, Lt. Col. [James] Simrall and the General Officers commanding on the flank line are to send out small detachments in advance of the two former corps and to the flank of the latter should they discover the enemy in force immediate notice will be sent to the lines. The General commanding on the spot will immediately order the signal for forming in order of battle which will be the beat "to arms."

All signals will be immediately repeated by all the drums of the line. The signal for the whole to halt is the retreat. Drums will be distributed along the heads of companies and the taps occasionally given to regulate their march.

Lt. Col. Ball and Simrall are to keep the General constantly advised of the discoveries made by the advanced parties. When it shall become necessary for the corps of Ball and Simrall to retire they will form on the flank or in the rear of McArthurs and Calmes Brigades and receive the orders of the Brigadiers respectively.

Brigadier Genl. Cass will designate such officers as he may

deem proper to assist Captain Elliott of the navy in the arrangement of the boats and the debarkation of the troops. The Genl. will be the signal for the whole to move.

Detachment to reinforce the army below.

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir your humble svt

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Truly copied from the Original ROBERT BUTLER *A. A. Adj. Gen.*

By command, EDMUND P. GAINES *Col. Adj. Genl.*

Honble. JOHN ARMSTRONG *Secy. of War.*

HARRISON TO GOV. MEIGS

AMHERSTSBURG, 27th of September, 1813 10 o'clock P. M.

Niles' Register V, 117

DEAR SIR:

The enemy have given up this important place without opposition; having destroyed the fort and all the public buildings which were immensely extensive and valuable, particularly the navy yard.

Proctor was yesterday at Sandwich, with his regulars and Indians. It is supposed he is bending his course to the river French, there to fortify and make a stand. I shall follow him as soon as I collect a few horses to mount the general officers and some of the staff.

A miserable French poney upon which the venerable and patriotic governor of Kentucky was mounted, is the only one in the army.

We landed three miles below the town. I wish your troops to remain at one of the Sandusky's for orders.

Your friend,

WM. H. HARRISON

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 87)

Head Quarters AMHURSTBURGH
27th September 1813.

Har. Pa. 151-152

SIR:

I have the honor to inform you that I landed the army under my command about 3 miles below this place at 3 o'clock

this evening without opposition and took possession of the Town in an hour after. Genl. [Henry] Proctor has retreated to Sandwich with his regular troops and Indians having previously burned the Fort, Navy Yard, barracks and public store houses. The two latter were very extensive covering several acres of ground. I will pursue the enemy tomorrow altho there is no probability of overtaking him as he has upwards of 1000 horses and we have not one in the army. I shall think myself fortunate to be able to collect a sufficiency to mount the general officers. It is supposed here that Genl. Procter intends to establish himself upon the River French 40 miles from Malden.

I have the Honor to be with great respect Your most obt. Humble Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble. JOHN ARMSTRONG Esqr. *Secretary of War*

P. S. The Aggregate amount of the force with me is about 5000 of which 2000 are regulars and the rest Kentucky militia the Pennsylvania Regits. with the exception of about 100 refused to cross the line.

SECRETARY OF WAR TO SHELBY

WAR OFFICE, September 27, 1813

Historical Register, III, 95

SIR:

In the absence of the secretary of war, I have the honour to inform your excellency, that the president has been pleased to approve your arrangements, in substituting volunteers for the detached militia required by general Harrison.

The term of service for the detachment under your excellency, must depend on the arrangements of the commanding general, to whom you are referred for the necessary information relative to their duty and the points where your troops will be expected to operate.

It will be proper for your excellency to keep up a correspondence with general Harrison. This is rendered the more necessary, as the several requisitions which have been made by him for volunteers and militia have not been accurately reported to the war office; and it is possible he may find it adviseable to discharge a part of your force before they reach the frontier.

In the present critical period of the campaign, it seems adviseable to submit all further arrangements to general Harrison, under the instructions he has received from the president through the secretary of war.

With perfect respect, I have the honour to be, your excellency's most obedient humble servant,

DANL. PARKER, *C. C. War Department*

His Excellency Gov. ISAAC SHELBY, *Gov. Ky.*

SPARKS TO HARRISON

LAWRENCEBURGH 27th Sept. 1813

Har. Pa. 434, 435

SIR:

Sometime ago you done me the honor to put under cover to me, a commission from the President, appointing to the office of an attorney for the U. States, in this Territory of Indiana. You and he will receive my ardent thanks, unmixed with base flattery. I never sought but one appointment (to the late vacancy in our Judiciary) from the General Government, in which I was disappointed; to the surprise and astonishment of a large portion of the citizens here; and wherefore it is difficult to account, as few applicants could expect a stronger recommendation, than was forwarded in my behalf. But as I was not influenced by motives neither popular nor lucrative (motives which never shall entirely regulate my conduct, in any pursuit, unless I degenerate in sentiment) my mortification under the disappointment was neither deep nor lasting. I am bound to believe, that my chief Magistrate, acts for the supposed best. Under the government I wish never to be a Senicure (we have too many such in the Territory already) therefore it is not my desire to hold the present office, merely for the names-sake. The duties thereof I must aim conscienciously to observe and discharge. This I cannot do unless those duties are accurately marked, and defined with perspecuity. The Law of Congress whence the appointment emanates, does not contain any specification of obligation on the Attorney.

Amongst genuine Republicans, I believe it is not considered a crime, *mala in se,* to confess ignorance where the means to obtain information, have not been received. Then, I profess

to you, Sir, that I am at a loss to know, how far the functions of an attorney for the U. States in this Territory connect with the Judiciary establishment in the same, as filled by the U. S. judges. All crimes, as well as misdemeanors, both in the superior and inferior courts, throughout the Territory, are prosecuted in the name of, and carried on by and under the authority of the United States. Formerly the Governor, in virtue of the power, as vested in him by the ordinance, commissioned an attorney General for the Territory, who appointed his deputies in each county. At present, the Governor by the same power continues to appoint the attorney General whose duty, *inter alia,* is to prosecute in the General Court and the Governor also by Statute law, commissions a prosecutor in each county. I have entered upon the duties of my appointment, so far as they are comprehended; but I wish to be guided by a more certain director, than conjecture. Does the appointment conferred upon me take from the Governor, the right exercised under the ordinance, to appoint an Attorney General for the Territory Or does it unite with the General Court so far only, as I hold Federal District powers?

I have called on the governor for information supposing him to be a proper person, as he was in Congress at the passage of the law, but he does not understand neither the object, nor extent of the appointment! This may, at least palliate my ignorance. My dear Sir, deem me not troublesome, as I seek information, and write with great difficulty, having been confined for two weeks, by a pretty severe attack of the Fever.

I will submit to your friendly consideration, whether or not I am entitled to receive the laws of the United States? If so, where and how I am to obtain them? Here they can be had, only in detached Vols. If hereafter on any occasion you should require my services, please to command my attention. Doct. Edward Tiffen, of your city, has had with me a long acquaintance.

With my fervent orisons to the throne of God, for your health and prosperity, I am, Venerable sir, with sentiments of high regard, your Obt. Servt.

ELIJAH SPARKS

A Proclamation

By William Henry Harrison Major General in the army of the United States and commanding in chief the 8th Military District

Detroit, Sept. 29, 1813

Har. Pa. 185, 186

The enemy having been driven from the Territory of Michigan and a part of the army under my command having taken possession of it, it becomes necessary that the civil government of the Territory should be reestablished and the former officers renew the exercise of their authority. I have therefore thought proper to proclaim that all appointments and commissions which have been derived from British officers are at an end and that the citizens of the said Territory are restored to all the rights and privileges which they enjoyed previously to the capitulation made by General Hull on the 16th of August 1812. Under the present circumstances and until the will of the government can be made known I have thought proper to direct that persons having civil offices in the territory of Michigan at the period of the capitulation of Detroit resume the exercise of the powers appertaining to their offices respectively.

In the present dispersed state of its population many officers are doubtlessly absent. In all cases thus situated the last incumbent who resigned the office will resume the exercise of its duties, the laws in force at the period above mentioned will be reestablished and continue in force until repealed by the proper authority. Given at Head Quarters Detroit 29th day of September 1813.

Signed William Henry Harrison

By order of the General

Signed John O'Fallon *Aid de camp*

Harrison to Secretary of War

(No. 88)

Head Quarters Sandwitch (Upper Canada)
30th Septr. 1813

Har. Pa. 166

Sir:

The enemy having broken down the bridges over several

unfordable creeks between Amhurstburgh and this place I was unable to reach it until yesterday. Genl. Procter had the night before left his encampment eight miles above pursuing the road on the margin of the Lake to the Thames. Having so much the start of me and having striped the country of Horses, which prevented me from procuring a sufficiency to mount even the general officers it was impossible to pursue him further with any hopes of success until we could be joined by Col. [R. M.] Johnsons Regiment of mounted infantry which was on its way from Fort Meigs and which had the night before encamped at Brownstown. The Col. Arrived this day at Detroit and his Regt. is now crossing over. But as our boats are illy calculated to carry horses it is attended with much difficulty. I hope however that they will be all over early in the morning when we shall again take up the line of march. Genl. Procter has with him four hundred seventy five regulars of the 41 and Newfoundland Regiments sixty of the 10th Regiment of Vetrans 45 Dragoons and from six hundred to a thousand Indians, some deserters that left him the night before last give the latter as the number, the citizens of Detroit supposed the former to be correct. If he makes the contemplated stand on the river French he will be able to add several hundred militia to his force. My great apprehension however arrises from a belief that he will make no halt. The Potawatimies and a Banditti of Winebagoes Fox Hurons and other northwestern Indians are at the River Rouge they remained in the vicinity of Detroit until the arrival of the army at this place and continued to plunder the inhabitants to the last moment indeed but for our opportune arrival, it is more than probable that there would have been a general massacre of the Inhabitants and burning of their houses.

The Ottawas and Chippewas have withdrawn from the British and have sent in three of their warriors to beg for peace promising to agree to any terms that I shall prescribe. I have agreed to receive them upon condition of their giving hostages for their fidelity and immediately joining us with all their warriors. The Wyandots, Miamis and the band of Delawares which had joined the enemy are also desirous to be received upon the same terms. I shall enter into no engagement with them upon the subject of their lands but refer the whole to the decision of the president, the propriety of receiving the

Indians in the manner here proposed appears to me to be so obvious as to require no illustration. It was recommended to me by all the unanimous voice of all the General officers and by the urgent entreaties of the citizens of Detroit, whose safety cannot be ascertained without it. Two thousand men placed at Detroit could not protect the scattered settlements from the depredations of the hostile Indians. The gleanings of the farms and of the corn fields would afford them support for months. I think it necessary however that some severe example should be made and every motive of justice and policy points at the Potawatimies as the Tribe which ought to be selected for the purpose. They are the most guilty and the most able on any further occasion to give trouble to the U. States. The celebrated Chief Main Pock is at the head of the hostile band on the Detroit side of the Streight. Tecumseh leads that which remains with the British. The inhabitants of Detroit who were in daily communication with them, make the former from one thousand to twelve hundred their object in dividing their force was to make a night attack upon the part of the army which crossed over to Detroit or that which remained on this side by a junction of their force some miles above.

A detachment of the army and some of the vessels of War will set out for the reduction of Macinac and St. Josephs in a few days. The occupancy of Chicago must be left for another season. the Militia have already become restless and desirous of returning home. They will go however with cheerfulness as long as there is a prospect of overtaking the enemy but no human influence will keep them any longer. I shall have, after their departure and that of the 12 months volunteers, about twenty-five hundred regulars; these will be sufficient for the reduction of Maccinac and for the safety of the country. But until the Indians are more completely under our control I do not think it would be proper to make any Detachment to reinforce the army below.

I have the honor to be with great Respect Sir your Humbl. Svt

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble. JOHN ARMSTRONG Esqr. *Secty of War*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

No. 89

Head Quarters Near MORAVIAN TOWN on the River French [Thames] 80 miles from DETROIT 5th Oct. 1813

Har. Pa. 161-165

SIR:

I have the honour to inform you that by the blessing of providence the army under my command has this evening obtained a complete victory over the combined Indian and British forces under the command of Genl. [Henry] Proctor.

I believe that nearly the whole of the enemies Regulars are taken or killed amongst the former are all the superior officers excepting Genl. Procter. My mounted men are now in pursuit of him.

Our loss is very trifling. The brave Col. R. M. Johnson is the only officer whom I have heard of that is wounded. He badly but I hope not dangerously. [Mortality in the duplicate]

I have the honor to be with great respect your obt. svt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

The Honble. JOHN ARMSTRONG, *Secretary at War*

(This was sent in duplicate, both copies arriving)

PROCTOR TO HARRISON

October 8th, 1813

Niles' Register V, 312

SIR:

The Fortune of War having placed the private property of the officers and several Families of the Right Division of the British Army in Upper Canada in your power, as also letters, Papers, and Vouchers of the greatest consequence to individuals without being of any to the cause of the captors, I do myself the honor of applying to you in their behalf, hoping that agreably to custom of War you will avail yourself of this favorable opportunity to alleviate private Feelings by causing the said property and Documents to be restored. I must also intreat that every consideration in your power be shown for private families not of the army. I trust that with the same view, you will permit the Bearer hereof to ascertain the fate of Individuals and that you you will facilitate the retreat of

any Families that may have unfortunately been interrupted in the attempt.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your obedient and humble servant.

(signed) HENRY PROCTOR
Maj. General in his Brittanic Majesty's Service

Major Gen. HARRISON

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 90)

Head Quarters DETROIT 9th October 1813

Har. Pa. 168-180

SIR:

In my letter from Sandwich of the 30th ultimo [see above] I did myself the honor to inform you that I was preparing to pursue the enemy the following day. From various causes however I was unable to put the troops in motion until the morning of the 2nd Instant and then to take with me only about one hundred and forty of the Regular Troops. [R. M.] Johnson's mounted Regiment and such of Gov. Shelby volunteers as were fit for a rapid march the whole amounting to about three thousand five hundred men. To Genl. [Duncan] McArthur (with aout seven hundred effectives) the protecting of this place and the sick was committed. Genl. [Lewis] Cass's Brigade and the Corps of Lt. Col. [James V.] Ball were left at Sandwich with orders to follow me as soon as the men received their knapsacks and blankets, which had been left on an Island in Lake Erie.

The unavoidable delay at Sandwich was attended with no disadvantage to us. Genl. Proctor had posted himself at Dalson's on the right bank of the Thames (or French) fifty six miles from this place where I was informed he intended to fortify and wait to receive me. He must have believed however that I had no disposition to follow him or that he had secured my continuance here by the reports that were circulated that the Indians would attack and destroy the place upon the advance of the army. As he neglected to commence the breaking up the bridges until the night of the second instant. On that night our army reached the river which is twenty five miles from Sandwich and is one of four streams crossing our route, over all of which are bridges, and being deep and

muddy are unfordable for a considerable distance into the country. the bridge here was found entire and in the morning I proceeded with Johnson's Regiment to save if possible the others. At the second bridge over a branch of the River Thames we were fortunate enough to capture a Lieut. of Dragoons and eleven privates who had been sent by Genl. Proctor to destroy them. From the prisoners I learned that the third bridge was broken up and that the enemy has no certain information of our advance. The bridge having been imperfectly destroyed, was soon repaired and the army encamped at Drake's farm four miles below Dalson's.

The river Thames along the banks of which our route lay is a fine deep stream, navigable for vessels of considerable burthen, after the passage of the bar at its mouth, over which there is six and a half feet water.

The baggage of the army was brought from Detroit in boats protected by three gun boats, which Commodore Perry had furnished for the purpose as well as to cover the passage of the army over the Thames itself, or the mouths of its tributary streams; the banks being low and the country generally open (Prairies) as high as Dalson's these vessels were well calculated for that purpose. Above Dalson's however, the character of the river and adjacent country is considerably changed. The former, though still deep is very narrow and its banks high and woody. The Commodore [Perry] and myself therefore agreed upon the propriety of leaving the boats under a guard of one hundred and fifty infantry and I determined to trust to fortune and the bravery of my troops to effect the passage of the river. Below a place called Chatham and four miles above Dalson's is the third unfordable branch of the Thames. the bridge over its mouth had been taken up by the Indians as well as that at McGregor's Mills one mile above. Several hundred of the Indians remained to dispute our passage and upon the arrival of the advanced guard, commenced a heavy fire from the opposite bank of the creek as well as that of the river. Believing that the whole force of the enemy was there I halted the army formed in order of battle and brought up our two six pounders to cover the party that were ordered to repair the bridge. A few shot from those pieces soon drove off the Indians and enabled us in two hours to repair the bridge and cross the troops. Col. Johnson's

mounted regiment being upon the right of the army had seized the remains of the bridge at the Mills under a heavy fire from the Indians. Our loss upon this occasion was two killed and three or four wounded. That of the enemy was ascertained to be considerably greater. A house near the bridge, containing a very considerable number of muskets had been set on fire but it was extinguished by our troops and the arms saved. At the first farm above the bridge we found one of the enemy's vessels on fire, loaded with arms and ordnance stores and learned that they were a few miles ahead of us still on the right bank of the river with the great body of Indians. At Bowles's farm, four miles from the bridge we halted for the night found two other vessels and a large distillery filled with ordnance and other valuable stores to an immense amount in flames. It was impossible to put out the fire—two twenty four pounders with their carriages were taken and a large quantity of ball and shells of various sizes. The army was put in motion early on the morning of the 5th. I pushed on in advance with the mounted regiment and requested Gov. Shelby to follow as expeditiously as possible with the Infantry the Gov.'s zeal and that of his men enabled them to keep up with the cavalry and by 9 o'clock we were at Arnold's Mills having taken in the course of the morning two gunboats and several batteaux loaded with provisions and ammunition. A rapid in the river at Arnolds Mills affords the only fording to be met with for a very considerable distance but upon examination, it was found too deep for the Infantry. Having however fortunately taken two other boats and some Indian canoes on the spot and obliging the horsemen to take a foot man behind each, the whole were safely crossed by 12 o'clock. 8 miles from the crossing we passed a farm where a part of the British troops had encamped the night before under the command of Col. Warbarton. The detachment with Genl. Proctor had arrived the day before at the Moravian Town four miles higher up.

Being now certainly near the enemy I directed the advance of Johnson's Regiment to accellerate their march for the purpose of procuring intelligence. The officer commanding it, in a short time, sent to inform me that his progress was stopped by the enemy who were formed across our line of march. One of the enemy's waggoners being also taken prisoner

from the information received from him, and my own observation, assisted by some of my officers I soon ascertained enough of their position and order of battle to determine that which it was proper for me to adopt.

I have the honour herewith to enclose you my general order of the 27 ultimo [not found] prescribing the order of March and of battle when the whole army should act together. But as the number and description of the troops had been essentially changed since the issuing of the order, it became necessary to make a corresponding alteration in their disposition. From the place where our army was last halted, to the Moravian Towns, a distance of about three and a half miles, the road passes through a beech forest without any clearing and for the first two miles near to the bank of the River. At from two to three hundred yards from the river a swamp extends parallel to it, throughout the whole distance. The intermediate ground is dry and although the trees are tolerably thick, it is in many places clear of underbrush. Across this strip of land its left appayed upon the river supported by artillery placed in the wood, their right in the swamp covered by the whole of their Indian force, the British Troops were drawn up. The troops at my disposal consisted of about one hundred and twenty regulars of the 27th regiment, five brigades of Kentucky Volunteer Militia Infantry under his Excellency Gov. Shelby, averaging less than five hundred men and Col. Johnson's Regiment of Mounted Infantry making in the whole an aggregate something above three thousand. No disposition of an army opposed to an Indian force can be safe unless it is secured on the flanks and in the rear. I had therefore no difficulty in arranging the Infantry conformably to my general order of battle. Genl. [George] Trotter's brigade of five hundred men formed the front line, his right upon the road and his left upon the swamp Genl. [John Edward] King's brigade as a second line one hundred and fifty yards in the rear of Trotter's and [David] Chiles' brigade as a *corps de reserve* in the rear of it these three brigades formed the command of Major Genl. [William] Henry. the whole of Genl. [Joseph] Deshai's Division consisting of two brigades were formed *en potence* upon the left of Trotter.

Whilst I was engaged in forming the Infantry I had directed Col. Johnson's Regiment which was still in front, to be formed

in two lines opposite to the enemy and upon the advance of the Infantry to take ground to the left and forming upon that flank to endeavour to turn the right of the Indians. A moments reflection however convinced me that from the thickness of the woods and swampiness of the ground, they would be unable to do anything on horseback and there was no time to dismount them and place their horses in security. I therefore determined to refuse my left to the Indians and to break the British lines at once by a charge of the Mounted Infantry. the measure was not sanctioned by anything that I had seen or heard of but I was fully convinced that it would succeed. The American backwoodsmen ride better in the woods than any other people. A musket or rifle is no impediment to them being accustomed to carry them on horseback from their earliest youth. I was persuaded too that the enemy would be quite unprepared for the shock and that they could not resist it. Conformably to this idea I directed the regiment to be drawn up in close column with its right at the distance of fifty yards from the road, (that it might be in some measure protected by the trees from the artillery) its left upon the swamp and to charge at full speed as soon as the enemy delivered their fire. The few regular troops of the 27th Regiment under their Col. [George] (Paul) occupied in column of sections of four, the small space between the road and the river for the purpose of seizing the enemy's artillery and some ten or twelve friendly Indians were directed to move under the bank. The *Crotchet* formed by the front line and Genl. Desha's division was an important point. At that place, the venerable Governor of Kentucky was posted, who at the age of sixty-six preserves all the vigor of youth, the ardent zeal which distinguished him in the Revolutionary War and the undaunted bravery which he manifested at King's Mountain, with my aids de camp the acting assistant adjutant General Capt. [Robert] Butler my gallant friend Commodore Perry who did me the honour to serve as my volunteer aid de camp and Brigadier General Cass who having no command tendered me his assistance. I placed myself at the head of the front line of Infantry, to direct the movements of the Cavalry and give them the necessary support. The army had moved on in this order but a short distance, when the mounted men received the fire of the British line and were ordered to charge,

the horses in the front of the column recoiled from the fire, another was given by the enemy and our column at length getting in motion broke through the enemy with irresistible force. in one minute the contest in front was over. the British officers seeing no hopes of reducing their disordered ranks to order, and our mounted men wheeling upon them and pouring in a destructive fire immediately surrendered. it is certain that three only of our troops were wounded in this charge (upon the left however the contest was more severe with the Indians. Col. Johnson, who commanded on that flank of his regiment received a most galling fire from them, which was returned with great effect). The Indians still further to the right advanced and fell in with our front line of Infantry near its junction with Desha's division and for a moment made an impression upon it. His Excellency Gov. Shelby however brought up a regiment to its support and the enemy receiving a severe fire in front, and a part of Johnson's Regiment having gained their rear, retreated with precipitation their loss was very considerable in the action and many were killed in their retreat.

I can give no satisfactory information of the number of Indians that were in the action but they must have been considerably upwards of one thousand. From the documents in my possession (Genl. Proctor's official letters all of which were taken) and from the information of respectable inhabitants of this Territory the Indians kept in pay by the British were much more numerous than has been generally supposed. In a letter to Genl. De. Rottenburg of the 27th Inst. Genl. Proctor speaks of having prevailed upon most of the Indians to accompany him. Of these it is certain that fifty or sixty Wyandot Warriors abandoned him.

A British officer of high rank, assured one of my Aids de Camp that on the day of our landing Gen. Proctor had at his disposal upwards of three thousand Indian Warriors but asserted that the greatest part had left him previous to the action.

The number of our troops was certainly greater than that of the enemy but when it is recollected that they had chosen a position that effectually secured their flank which it was impossible for us to turn and that we could not present to them

a line more extended than their own it will not be considered arrogant to claim for my troops the palm of superior bravery.

In communicating to the President through you Sir my opinion of the conduct of the officers who served under my command I am at a loss how to mention that of Gov. Shelby being convinced that no eulogium of mine can reach his merits. The Governor of an independent State greatly my superior in years, in experience and in military character he placed himself under my command and is not more remarkable for his zeal and activity than for the promptitude and cheerfulness with which he obeyed my orders. The Major Generals Henry and Desha and the brigadiers [James] Allen, [Samuel] Caldwell, King, Chiles, and Trotter all of the Kentucky volunteers manifested great zeal and activity. Of. Gov. Shelby's staff his adjutant General Col. [Joseph] McDowell and his Quarter Master Genl. Col. [George] Walker rendered great service, as did his aids de camp Genl. [John] Adair and Majors [William T.] Barry and [J. F.] Crittenden the military skill of the former was of great service to us and the activity of the two latter Gentlemen could not be surpassed. Illness deprived me of the talents of my adjutant General Col. [Edmund P.] Gaines who was left at Sandwich. His duties were however ably performed by the acting assistant adjutant general Capt. Butler. My aids de camp Lt. [John] O'Fallon and Capt. [Charles Scott] Todd of the Line and my volunteer aids John Speed Smith and John Chambers Esq. have rendered me the most important services from the opening of the Campaign. I have already stated that Genl. Cass and Commodore Perry assisted me in forming the troops for action the former is an officer of the highest merit and the appearance of the brave Commodore cheered and animated every breast.

It would be useless Sir after stating the circumstances of the action to pass encommium upon Col. Johnson and his regiment. Veterans could not have manifested more firmness. The Colonel's numerous wounds prove that he was in the post of danger. Lt. Col. James Johnson and the Majors [De Vall] Payne and [David] Thompson were equally active though more fortunate. Major [E. D.] Wood of the Engineers already distinguished by his conduct at Fort Meigs attended the army with two six pounders. Having no use for them in the action, he joined in the pursuit of the enemy and with

Major Payne of the Mounted Regiment two of my aids de camp Todd and Chambers and three privates continued it for several miles after the rest of the troops had halted and made many prisoners.

I left the army before an official return of the prisoners or that of the killed and wounded was made out. It was however ascertained that the former amounts to six hundred and one regulars including twenty-five officers. Our loss is seven killed and twenty two wounded five of which have since died. of the British Troops twelve were killed and twenty two wounded the Indians suffered most, thirty three of them having been found upon the ground besides those killed in the retreat.

On the day of the action, six pieces of brass artillery were taken, and two iron twenty four pounders the day before. Several others were discovered in the River and can be easily procured. of the Brass Pieces three are the trophies of our Revolutionary War, that were taken at Saratoga and York and surrendered by General Hull. The number of small arms taken by us and destroyed by the enemy must amount to upwards of five thousands most of them had been ours and taken by the enemy at the surrender of Detroit, at the river Raisin and Colo. [William] Dudley's defeat. I believe that the enemy retain no other military trophy of their victories than the standard of the 4th Regiment. They were not magnanimous enough to bring that of the 41st Regiment into the field or it would have been taken.

You have been informed Sir of the conduct of the Troops under my command in action it gives me great pleasure to inform you that they merit also the approbation of their country for their conduct in submitting to the greatest privations with the utmost cheerfulness. The Infantry were entirely without tents and for several days the whole army subsisted upon fresh beef without bread or salt.

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir your Humb. Servt

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Gen JOHN ARMSTRONG *Sec. of War*

P. S. Genl. Proctor escaped by the fleetness of his horse escorted by forty dragoons and a number of mounted Indians.

Extract from the Deposition of Major Chambers

Dawson, *Harrison*, 424

During the whole pursuit, and indeed from the time I first joined General Harrison, he evinced in his whole conversation and conduct the most ardent disposition to push the campaign into the enemy's country, and to meet general Proctor in the field, at the same time that he evinced a devotion to his duties which I have never seen equalled in any station.

John Chambers[1]

Extract from the Deposition of Colonel Todd

Dawson, *Harrison*, 424

During the whole period that I had the pleasure to be associated with General Harrison, with various opportunities of observing his conduct and appreciating his motives, I do most unequivocally declare my conviction, that the unremitted zeal, the unshaken firmness, the spotless integrity, and the consummate ability with which he conducted the north-western army to complete victory amidst innumerable difficulties, (correctly estimated by those only who participated in them) secured my entire approbation, and give him just claims to the eternal gratitude of his country.

C. S. Todd[2]

Cass to Harrison

Aug. 31, 1817

Dawson, *Harrison*, 423

Upon the subject of the council which was held at Sandwich I cannot speak with precision; I think that for some cause I do not now recollect, I was not present at its deliberations. But I do recollect that at all the interviews I had with you, you were ardent and zealous for the pursuit of Proctor, nor did I ever hear that a doubt had been expressed by you upon that subject till long after the events themselves had passed away. In the letter from governor Shelby to you which has been published, the governor has stated so correctly and dis-

1. Aid de Camp of Harrison at the battle.

2. Colonel of the 17th regiment. These extracts are printed here merely to indicate that these campaigns were all fought over again and again in Congress, in the press and on the stump.

tinctly the propositions which were made for the pursuit of Proctor, that there is the less necessity for me to enter into a detail of them. The main body of the enemy's army had left Amherstburg some days before we landed, and were understood to be upon the river French. If conducted with common prudence, it was my opinion then and it is my opinion yet that they might have moved with such celerity as to have rendered it impracticable for us to have overtaken them. A deep indentation of the lake some distance below Malden would have brought us within a few miles of the road upon which Proctor retreated, and considerably advanced of the position where we overtook him. The propriety of pursuing him along the road he had taken, or of endeavouring to intercept him by the other route was the subject of conversation on our first arrival at Sandwich. But whenever I conversed with you, the latter route was mentioned as one which deserved examination rather than one upon which any decided opinion had been formed. Upon a consideration of its uncertainty at that season of the year, it was soon abandoned. I was with you frequently, and conversed with you freely during our continuance at Sandwich, and am confident you never hesitated in your determination to pursue Proctor. So far as my feeble testimony can aid in removing erroneous impressions, which have injured you, it is given with pleasure. From the time I joined the army under your command its operations were conducted with as much celerity as possible, and so far as respects yourself, its fiscal concerns, I am confident, were managed with the most scrupulous integrity.

[LEWIS CASS]

[Extract]

SHELBY TO HARRISON

FRANKFORT, April 21, 1816

Dawson, *Harrison*, 422

DEAR GENERAL, your letter of the 15th instant has been duly received in which you stated that a charge has been made against you, "that you were forced to pursue Proctor from my remonstrances," and that I had said to you, upon that occasion "that it was immaterial what direction you took, that I was resolved to pursue the enemy up the Thames": and you re-

quest me to give you a statement of facts in relation to the council of war held at Sandwich.

I will in the first place freely declare that no such language ever passed from me to you, and that I entertained throughout the campaign too high an opinion of your military talents to doubt for a moment your capacity to conduct the army to the best advantage. It is well recollected that the army arrived at Sandwich in the afternoon of the 29th of September, and that the next day was extremely wet. I was at your quarters in the evening of that day; we had a conversation relative to the pursuit of the enemy, and you requested me to see you early the next morning. I waited on you just after day break, found you up, apparently waiting for me; you led me into a small private room and on the way observed, 'We must not be heard.' You were as anxious to pursue Proctor as I was, but might not have been entirely satisfied as to the route. You observed that there were two ways by which he might be overtaken; one was down the lake by water, to some post or point, of the name of which I am now not positive, thence to march across by land twelve miles to the road leading up the Thames, and intercept him. The other way, by land, up the strait, and up the Thames. I felt satisfied by a pursuit on land that he could be overhauled, and expressed that opinion with the reasons on which it was founded, and we readily agreed in sentiment; but you observed as there were two routes by which he might be overtaken, to determine the one most proper was a measure of great responsibility, that you would take the opinion of the general officers as to the most practicable one, and you requested me to collect them in one hour at your quarters. I assembled them accordingly, to whom you stated your determination to pursue Proctor, and your object in calling them together; and after explaining the two routes by which he might be overtaken, you observed, 'that the governor thinks, and so do I, that the pursuit by land up the Thames will be most effectual.' The general officers were in favour of a pursuit by land; and in the course of that day colonel Johnson with his mounted regiment was able to cross over from the Detroit side to join in the chase. He might, however, have been ordered the day before during the rain to cross over with his regiment, but of this I have not a distinct recollection. The army I know was on its march by sunrise on

the morning of the 2nd of October, and continued the pursuit (often in a run) until the evening of the 5th, when the enemy was overtaken. During the whole of this long and arduous pursuit, no man could make greater exertions or use more vigilance than you did to overtake Proctor, whilst the skill and promptitude with which you arranged the troops for battle, and the distinguished zeal and bravery you evinced during its continuance, merited and received my highest approbation.

In short, sir, from the time I joined you to the moment of our separation, I believe that no commander ever did or could make greater exertions than you did to effect the great objects of the campaign. I admired your plans, and thought them executed with great energy; particularly your order of battle and arrangements for landing on the Canada shore were calculated to inspire every officer and man with a confidence that we could not be defeated by any thing like our own number.

Until after I had served the campaign of 1813, I was not aware of the difficulties which you had to encounter as commander of the north-western army. I have since often said, and still do believe, that the duties assigned to you on that occasion were more arduous and difficult to accomplish than any I had ever known confided to any commander; and with respect to the zeal and fidelity with which you executed that high and important trust, there are thousands in Kentucky, as well as myself, who believed it could not have been committed to better hands.

With sentiments of the most sincere regard and esteem, I have the honour to be, with great respect, your obedient servant,

ISAAC SHELBY

Maj Gen WM HARRISON

PERRY TO HARRISON

NEWPORT, August 18, 1817

Dawson, *Harrison*, *423*

MY DEAR SIR,

I have received your letter of the 11th ult. in which you request me to reply to the following questions, viz, first, 'Whether the statements made by governor Shelby in his let-

ter to you of the 21st April, 1816, be substantially correct?' to which I reply in the affirmative. Secondly, 'Whether you did ever, either in the council held at Sandwich or in private conversation with me, evince anything like an indisposition to pursue the British army by one of the two routes which were under consideration?" to which I answer in the negative. In a conversation which I held with you the morning prior to the assembling of the general council at Sandwich, you appeared particularly desirous of attempting to cut off the retreat of the British army by the route from port Talbot. To your arguments in favour of this measure I opposed our limited means of transportation, and the great difficulty and uncertainty of the lake navigation at that season of the year. These obstacles appeared to induce you to have recourse to the measure which was afterwards adopted.

Although I have little or no pretensions to military knowledge as relates to an army, still I may be allowed to bear testimony to your zeal and activity in the pursuit of the British army under general Proctor, and to say, the prompt change made by you in the order of battle on discovering the position of the enemy always has appeared to me to have evinced a high degree of military talent. I concur most sincerely with the venerable governor Shelby in his general approbation of your conduct (as far as it came under my observation) in that campaign. With great regard, I am, my dear sir, your friend.

O. H. PERRY

Maj. Gen. W. H. HARRISON

GIBSON TO SECRETARY OF STATE

JEFFERSONVILLE Oct. 9th 1813

Har. Pa. 446-449

DEAR SIR:

Presuming that some erroneous statements may have heretofore been made to you, The Honble. Secretary of War, or His Excellency the President, respecting my conduct whilst acting Governor of this Territory (Indiana) in the acceptance of certain rangeing companies And in order to repel any malevolent misrepresentations or insinuations that may hereafter be made against me upon that subject I now take the liberty of giving you a succinct detail of my conduct in regard to those

Rangeing companies and earnestly solicit your friendship in communicating the same to His excellency the President and Honble. the Secretary of War.

On the 20th of March Ult. I received a circular letter [see Feb. 27 above] from the Honble. Jonathan Jennings, (the Delegate from Indiana in Congress) dated City of Washington 27th February 1813 informing me that he had made arrangements with the Honble. Secretary of War for the raising of Four additional Companies of Rangers to consist of Five Commissioned officers and One Hundred and one noncommissioned officers and privates to be stationed in the Territory for the protection of the Frontier, that the men were then to meet and elect their officers, and then make a tender of their services to the Governor or Secretary of the Territory, who should recommend the officers to His Excellency the President, whereupon commissions would be forwarded from the war Department. A number of Mr. Jennings' circulars of the same tenor and date, were received by individuals at the time I received the one addressed to me and notwithstanding my conviction of the impropriety of acting officially upon the *ipsi dixit* of even the Honble Jon. Jennings, I was importuned by offers of companies, pursuant to the circulars and the alarming cricis in which the territory was placed by savage depredations and menaces; induced me to act under the letter. The result has however proved that a contrary determination in me, would not only have been adviseable but prudent. My determination to act being avowed, Lieut. Craven Payton then of one of the old Companies of U. S. Rangers tendered himself, and proposed to raise a company either in the Territory or from Kentucky, From my personal knowledge of Mr. Payton, information of the respectability of his connections and the warm recommendations of Colonel William Russell of the 7th U. S. Regiment (under whom Mr. Peyton had served upon his and Governor Edward's excursion to Peoria) I accepted of his offer and directed him to repair to Kentucky, raise his company as immediately as possible (for I considered that being raised and brought from thence, they would be a great acquisition to our strength and phisical means of defence) and repair by the way of Jeffersonville to Velonia, from which latter place an Expedition was intended to be marched under command of Col. Russell against the Mississineway Indians.

Thus I considered one of the four companies disposed of. About this time Capt. Pierre Andre tendered his services, was accepted and the officers recommended by me. Thus a second company was disposed of.

A few days afterwards Capt. William Hargrove tendered himself and company to me, and I accepted his offer and early in April he was ordered by me to report himself to Colonel Russell. Thus I considered a third company disposed of. It may not be improper here to observe that oweing to a neglect in Capt. Hargrove's Muster Maker, his Muster Rolls did not come on to me, consequently I could not recommend his company not knowing who they had elected as their officers.

In the latter part of March or beginning of April Capt. [Williamson] Dunn (of Jefferson County) went on to Vincennes with the muster roll of his company which I accepted and shortly after recommended the officers. Then and there was the four companies compleat. About this time Capt. [Patrick] Shields of Harrison County Capt. [James] Bigger of Clark, and Capt. [Frederick] Shoults of Franklin tendered themselves (in person or by letter) and companies whom I severally rejected, because I considered the four companies already accepted of.

I will now remark as to Capt. Peyton and Hargrove, that they are athletic, courageous and enterprising men, men whose patriotism have always been held in the highest estimation and their companies have since the month of April last peformed very arduous and beneficial services in the protectoin of our frontier.

I have the honor to be Dr. Sir with sentiments of the highest consideration and esteem Your obd. and very Humble servant.

JNO. GIBSON
Secry. of Indiana Territory

The Honble JAMES MONROE, *Secretary of State of the U. S.*
Washington City

P. S. His Excellency Gov. Posey has written fully to the Honble. The Secretary of War upon this subject. I beg leave to refer you to his letters for further particulars. J. G.

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 91)

Head Quarters DETROIT 10th Oct. 1813

Har. Pa. 181-184

SIR:

Previously to my leaving Sandwich with the army I had received a deputation from the Tawas [Ottowas] and a few Chippewas who had abandoned the British soliciting forgiveness and desiring to know upon what terms they could be again taken under the protection of the U. States. I returned for answer that the final decision of their fate rested with the Government that I could only suspend hostilities against them which would be done upon the condition of their bringing in their wives and children as hostages and immediately joining their arms to ours. This proposition was readily agreed to but as the arrangement could not be made before the march of the army I directed Genl. McArthur to attend to it. Accordingly after my departure, the Chiefs came in attended by those of the Miami Tribe and some Potawatimies all of whom requested to be allowed the same terms. They are now encamped about three miles from this Town with their families. A few miles further are the band of Potawatimies headed by Marpock, the most inveterate of our enemies. From him also some feint propositions have been made to Genl. McArthur but I am convinced with no other view then to wait the issue of the contest upon the river Thames. I informed you sometime ago that the Wyandot chief Walk-in-the-Water informed me that he had prepared his warriors to join me upon my arrival here. I believe he did separate himself from the Hostile party upon our landing and was in the neighborhood of Sandwich upon our arrival there but he fell back upon the Thames probably fearful of falling in with our mounted militia. Upon my advance up the Thames he sent a flag to me to know my pleasure. I directed him to remove with his women and children up the creek upon which he was then encamped and remain there. He did so and I expect him today. I am very much at a loss to know what to do with these people. There are many considerations of policy which urge the pardoning of the small tribe of Tawas and such of the Wyandots as have acted with the British; they have also some claims upon our humanity as they certainly saved the inhabitants of this ter-

ritory from a general masscre. The citizens are very desirous of having them spared under the full conviction that their safety will be better ascertained by that means than by any other that could be adopted.

The Miamies and Potawatimies deserve no mercy, they were the tribes most favored by us. They have been (the latter particularly) our most cruel and inveterate enemies. Under present circumstances however it would be proper to grant them an armistice in order to get them to their own grounds where they will be perfectly in our power. Genl. McArthur has pledged himself too far with them to authorize me to strike them without some new provocation, this they will take care not to give. Indeed I believe that the Indian War may be terminated with a little management without any further bloodshed and the terms of peace dictated by the U. States unless we suffer the British again to get footing in our Territory. I should be thankful for instructions from the government on this subject and the course of conduct to be pursued with the Indians as soon as possible.

In granting them an armistice I was governed by the following considerations—Should we press upon them without destroying them, they will join the British army on Lake Ontario. Although the possession of this country will cut off the communication between the Indians of the Wabash, Illinois, Huron and St. Joseph Rivers until we are in possession of Montreal, the northern Indians will be entirely independent of us.

Arrangements have been made by Commodore Perry and myself to send a detachment of troops in some of his vessels immediately to Macinac for the reduction of that post and St. Josephs. It will sail from here I hope the day after tomorrow. The assistance or neutrality of the Chippewas and Tawas would greatly facilitate the reduction of these posts. I see by the late papers that there is a great danger of a general defection of the southern Indians. There is a constant and regular communication between them and the hostile tribes in this quarter the former will soon be informed of the extremity to which the Indians here have been reduced by listening to the insidious councils of the British and it may have the effect of preventing the defection of such of the southern tribes as have not yet taken up the Tomahawk against us.

I have the honor to enclose you a proclamation which I issued upon my first arrival here. The superior officers of the Territory are much wanted. I shall take upon myself to arm and organize the militia for their temporary defence.

Gen. Proctor had placed the upper district of U. Canada under martial law some days before our landing so far as to seize and send off suspected persons and to take from the farmers the necessary subsistance for his troops. I shall continue the government upon the same footing until I receive the directions of the President. The Kentucky volunteers turned out only to effect the conquest of this district they will immediately return home.

The public buildings of every description at Malden were burned, as were the barracks and magazines in the fort at this place. Is it the intention of the government to have the fort at Malden repaired or shall a new one be built on the Island of Bois Blanc which is opposite to Malden on our side of the channel?

I have the honor to enclose you a copy of a [Proclamation] [see Sept. 29 above]

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

HARRISON TO MEIGS

Head-quarters, DETROIT, Oct. 11, 1813

Niles' Register V, 186

DEAR GOVERNOR:

You will have heard before this reaches you that I was fortunate enough to overtake general Proctor, and his tawny allies, and to give them a complete drubbing. I have six hundred and one prisoners of the British regulars, officers included, among which there are two colonels.

Nothing but infatuation could have governed genl. Proctor's conduct. The day that I landed below Malden he had at his disposal upwards of 3,000 Indian warriors; his regular force, reinforced by the militia of the district, would have made his numbers nearly equal to my aggregate; which, on the day of landing, did not exceed 4500. The papers have greatly exaggerated the number of militia from Kentucky; those which embarked with me at Portage, did not amount to three thousand rank and file, and several hundred of them were left in the islands.

The Indians were extremely desirous of fighting us at Malden. I enclose you Tecumseh's speech to Proctor; [Sept. 18 above] it is at once an evidence of the talents of the former, and the great defect of them in the latter. His inferior officers say that his conduct has been a continued series of blunders. He manifested, indeed, some judgement in the choice of his field of battle, as he was so posted that I could not turn him, and could only oppose a line of equal extent to his. However, the contest was not for a moment doubtful. The greater part of his Indians were in the air (according to the Persian military phraseology) and his regulars broken and were made prisoners by a single charge of mounted infantry. We took up on the ground, or near it, a fine brass field train of artillery, Several of the pieces are the trophies of the revolution, taken at Saratoga and York, and surrendered by gen. Hull. The number of small arms and military stores taken by us or destroyed by the enemy is immense. My force in the action, of all descriptions, was short of 2500.

I am preparing an expedition to Michilimackinac, and another to Long Point, to destroy at the latter a depot of provisions.

I shall send orders to general [John S.] Gano, by this conveyance. It is probable that the greater part of his troops may be dismissed in a short time. The Indians in this neighborhood, are submitting at discretion.

I am your friend.

WM. H. HARRISON

To Governor MEIGS

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 93.)

Head Quarters DETROIT 11th Oct. 1813

Har. Pa. 192

SIR:

Upon submitting my official letter to you of the 9th [see above] to Gov. Shelby, he has convinced me that I have greatly overrated our force in the action of the 5th and that it fell short of two thousand five hundred of every description.

It is also proper to observe that as soon as the Regiment (Col. [James] Simrals) which was brought up by the Gover-

nor to reinforce the left line arrived the Indians gave up the contest.

I have omitted to mention the name of Capt. [Angus S.] Langham, Brigade Major to Genl. Cass as one of seven or eight who pursued the enemy for several miles after the rest of the troops had halted.

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir Your Humble Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble. JOHN ARMSTRONG *Secy. of War*

ARMISTICE WITH INDIANS

DETROIT Oct. 14, 1813

Har. Pa. 206, 207

Terms of an Armistice entered into between WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON *Major General in the service of the United States* and the Tribes of Indians called the MIAMIS, POTAWATOMIES, WYANDOTS, WEAS, EEL RIVER MIAMIES, OTTAWAYS, and CHIPPEWAYS

ARTICLE 1st. There shall be a suspension of hostilities between the United States and said Tribes from this day until the pleasure of the Government of the former shall be known. In the mean time the said Tribes may retire to their usual hunting grounds and there remain unmolested provided they behave themselves peacebly.

ARTICLE 2nd. In the event of any murder or other depredation, being committed upon any of the citizens of the United States by any of the other Tribes of Indians, those who are parties to these presents, shall immediately unite their efforts to punish the offenders.

ARTICLE 3rd. Hostages shall be given by said Tribes who shall be sent into the Settlements and there remain, until the termination of all the differences with the United States and said Tribes by a Council to be held for that purpose.

ARTICLE 4th. All the prisoners in the possession of said Tribes, shall be immediately brought to Fort Wayne or some other post, and delivered to the Commanding officer.

Done at Detroit this 14th day of October 1813 and of the Independence of the United States the thirty eighth.

In testimony whereof the said Major General and the Chiefs representing said Tribes here present, set their hands and affix their seals.

WM. HENRY HARRISON

Witnesses

LEWIS CASS, *Brig. Gen. Army U. S.*...
WM. P. ANDERSON *Col. 24th Reg. Inft.*
JOHN MILLER *Col. 19 Reg. Inft.*.....
E. P. GAINES *Adjt. General*.....
D. TRIMBLE *A.D. Camp to the Major General*.....

R. D. RICHARDSON *D. Com of Ordnance*.....
B. F. STICKNEY *Indian Agent*.....
ROBERT ABBOTT *French Interpreter*..
WILLIAM CONNER, *Delaware Interpreter*

J. BTS. CHANDONNAE, *Potawatomie Interpreter*.....
DUCHOUQUIT, *Shawnee Interpreter*...
LOUIS BEAUFAIT, *Taway & Chipeway Interpreter*.....

JOHN WALKER, *Wyandot Interpreter*..

a true copy C. S. TODD *Extra Aid de Camp.*

Potawatimies
- TOBINIBEE his X mark
- MAGONAGO his X mark
- WAGISHGOMET his X mark
- LAMANPOCH his X mark
- ONOCKSA his X mark
- CONQEE
- MESHEWA

Miamis
- POCANNA his X mark
- OSAGE his X mark
- WONKEMA his X mark

RETONGA his X mark or Charley Chief of the Eel River Miamis

Weas
- NEWA SHOSA or STONE EATER his X mark
- PAPAHONGUA or LAPOUSUR his X mark

Potawatimies
- CHAWKAWBE his X mark
- SHECOHA his X mark
- JEAN BST. RCHVILLE his X mark

Chippeways & Tawaways
- MASH KE MAN his X mark
- TONE HAD GONE OR THE DOG his Xmark
- OTISH QUOI GONAIM his X mark
- O TAPON his X mark
- APAGONA his X mark
- O CO NONGOWSY his X mark
- WAITAISHOO NA WA his X mark
- AWASHO QUI JUK his X mark
- KIT TWA WIOTUM his X mark
- KOW BE MISCOBEO his X mark
- WA-GAW his X mark
- PASH-KIESH QUASH ROM his X mark
- O GU-BONAWKE his X mark

PON-TI-ACK queen of the Tawas and Ottoways her X mark

KENOSAMIA or OTTER his X mark

CHEPE or (?) his X mark
POMA GWAMO or THUNDER his X mark
Wyandots { MAYAR or WALK IN THE WATER his X mark
ROSURAHOR or ARMEWAS his X mark
TAHHON of HOATA his X mark
ORORY MIAH his X mark

A PROCLAMATION

DETROIT Oct. 16, 1813

Niles' Register, V, 215

An Armistice [see above, Oct. 14] having been concluded between the United States and the tribes of Indians called Miamies, Potawatamies, Eel river Miamies, Weas, Ottoways, Chippeways, and Wyandots, to continue until the pleasure of the government of the former shall be known; I do hereby make known the same to all whom it may concern. The armistice is preparatory to a general council, to be held with these different tribes; and, until its termination, they have been permitted to retire to their hunting-grounds, and there to remain unmolested, if they behave themselves peaceably. They have surrendered into our hands hostages from each tribe; and have agreed immediately to restore all our prisoners in their possession, and unite with us in the chastisement of any Indians who may commit any aggression upon our frontiers. Under these circumstances, I exhort all citizens living upon the frontiers to respect the terms of said armistice, and neither to engage in nor countenance any expedition against their person or property; leaving to the government, with whom the constitution has left it, to pursue such course, with respect to the Indians as they may think most compatible with sound policy and the best interests of the country.

WM. H. HARRISON

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 94.)

Head Quarters DETROIT 16th October 1813

Har. Pa. 193-195

SIR:

A detachment of the army under the command of Brig. Genl. [Duncan] McArthur has been for some days waiting at this place, for the necessary provisions to proceed to Lake

Michigan. I am sorry to inform you however that from the effects of a violent storm there is now no prospect of accomplishing that desirable object the reduction of Michillimackinac this season. It is with the greatest regret I inform you that it is almost reduced to a certainty that two of our schooners have been lost on Lake Erie the "Chippewa" and "Ohio" the former loaded with the baggage of the Troops from Bass Island, the latter with flour and salt provisions from Cleveland. Our whole stock of the latter on hand at this place is forty barrels nor is there a possibility of obtaining a supply for a considerable time as the "Ohio" contained nearly the whole of the contractors stock of that article. Upon a consultation with the two Brigadiers and Commodore Perry and Capt. [Jesse D.] Elliott, it was unanimously determined that the season is too far advanced to attempt an expedition to Maccinac if it were not commenced in two or three days and there was no hope of the supplies being obtained in that time.

It is generally believed here that Genl. Proctor dispatched an order to the Commanding officer at Macinac to destroy the post and retreat by the way of Grand River at any rate it is not a matter of much importance to have that place in our possession during the winter, cut off as it is from a communication with the rest of the world.

I have the honor to enclose you a copy of the terms of an armistice [see Oct. 14 above] concluded with seven of the late hostile Tribes of Indians. I have no doubt of the sincerity of their repentance excepting perhaps the celebrated Main Poke and of him I judge only from the former inveteracy of his hate. I have promised the Tribes, that remained faithful to us that their annuities shall be sent them; they deserve them and I am obliged also to promise the late Hostile Tribes that they shall receive occasional supplies of provisions. Unless this is done they must plunder the inhabitants which will again produce hostilities.

I have received no instructions from the war office for several months and I am much at a loss to know what is expected from me.

I have the Honour to be with great respect Sir

Yr. Humb. Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Honble. JOHN ARMSTRONG Secy. of War

P. S. The late storm has deprived us of a great deal of valuable property taken from the enemy. A small schooner laded with camp equipage ordnance and ordnance stores and several boats were abandoned by them and I fear that very few of the articles will be recovered but all the artillery taken in the field is safe. I greatly fear too some of the prisoners may have escaped, they were under a militia guard and were scattered for several miles as I am informed. However I believe that we shall be able to muster six hundred exclusively of the officers. W. H. H.

A Proclamation

Sandwich Oct 17, 1813

Niles' Register V, 215

Whereas, by the combined operations of the land and naval forces under our command, those of the enemy within the upper district of Upper Canada have been captured or destroyed, and the said district is now in the quiet possession of our troops; it becomes necessary to provide for its government: *Therefore,* we do hereby proclaim and make known, that the rights and privileges of the inhabitants, and the laws and customs of the country, as they existed or were in force at the period of our arrival, shall continue to prevail. All magistrates and other civil officers are to resume the exercise of their functions; previously taking oath to be faithful to the government of the United States, as long as they shall be in possession of the country. The authority of all militia commissions is suspended, in said district and the officers required to give their parols, in such way as the officer, who may be appointed by the commanding general to administer the government, shall direct.

The inhabitants of said district are promised protection to their persons and property, with the exception of those cases embraced by the proclamation of general Proctor, of the [?] ult. which is declared to be in force, and the powers, therein assumed transferred to the officer appointed to administer the government.

Wm. H. Harrison
Oliver H. Perry

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

No. 95

Head Quarters DETROIT Oct. 17th 1813

Har. Pa. 197-204

SIR:

Among the papers which were taken on the 5th Inst. [illegible] to the [illegible] is a letter from Edward Bayne (adjutant genl. to Sir George Provost) to Major Genl. Proctor a copy of which I have the honor to inclose to your address.

I have the honor to be with great respect

Sir your Humble Servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

Head Quarters KINGSTON 18th Sept. 1813

SIR:

In the letter which I had the honor of addressing you on the 16th Inst. I informed you that I had by order of the commander of the Forces, on that day announced to Major Genl. De Rottenburg that considerations of a publick nature would induce his Excellency to remove his Head Quarters to Montreal about the middle of this month.

I was at the same time instructed to acquaint the Major Genl. Commanding that his Excellency confided in his judgment and discretion to determine how far it would be prudent to continue to contend against the increasing evils and difficulties with which the centre and Right Divisions have to struggle. This important decision must in a great measure depend on the issue of impending events of the campaign which cannot be much longer procrastinated. It is very much to be regreted that a decisive action between the two squadrons on the Lake Ontario has been so long delayed, and has unavoidably entailed upon the army a corresponding state of inaction and in a great degree involved it in the very critical state in which it is now placed. As on the issue of that all important event the ulterior operations of the army campaign have been necessarily suspended, for offensive military operations presented little prospect of being prosecuted with success without the aid and cooperation and more particularly the protection to be derived from a superior maratime force. At the same time it would have been highly impolitic to have anticipated the failure of that support and by adopting measures of precaution to have relinquished one foot of the ground on which we so proudly stand. Such a measure would have

lost us all our wavering friends and would have proved distructive to our Indian alliance.

The superior resources of the enemy have indeed enabled him to render our situation critical and difficult but it still does not yet amount to that point as to render a retrograde movement indispensible and untill that is the case it should be avoided by every possible exertion and devise.

Should however such a measure become unfortunately unavoidable, it is his Excellency's express Commands that it be not resorted to untill its necessity and the mode of carrying it into effect has been previously well weighed and considered and all necessary arrangements made. That under every circumstance it be conducted with order and regularity. His Excellency trusts that the Advanced divisions of the army are not incumbered with heavy or superfluous baggage. No considerations of that nature is to be suffered to impede the march of the troops for one single moment. The removal of all sick and convalesents must be previously provided for. Every position which the country affords is to be occupied and defended so that the enemy be made to pay dearly for every step he advances. All retrograde movements are to be resorted to with reluctance and they are to be as limited as the circumstances which cause them will admit and they are never to be hurried or accelerated unless warranted by circumstances of peculiar urgency.

Should your situation become desperate you are recommended to adopt a line of conduct suitable to the urgency of the case and as every thing must be sacraficed by a retrograde movement you will exaust every resource and means within your power before you resort to that measure. This policy particularly applies to the Marine Force and you will therefore impress upon Capt. Barclay in whose zeal talents and determined Fortitude the commander of the Forces has the most firm reliance, that the squadron under his command, being inevitably involved in the common fate of the Military Positions on Lake Erie, is to be devoted to their preservation, and if necessary, sacraficed to the last atom. Sooner than a vestage be left to swell the pride of an arrogant Foe and you will be careful on your part, that nothing that can be in any way useful to the Enemy, be suffered to fall into his hands. His Excellency looks with confidence to your exertions that

every injury and annoyance which it is possible for the combined discipline and Gallantry of the Forces under your Command to perform will be called forth to cripple and repulse the enemy.

His Excellency is particularly solicitous, that the relative dependence and mutual support that exists between the Centre and right divisions may never be lost sight of. He recommends that every attention and exertion be made to keep the communication open both by land and water and that a perfect understanding prevail, of the relative state, plans and occurrances of each division in as far as they may influence the operations of the other exist. With this view his Excellency has been pleased to sanction Major Genl. DeRothenburg opening any publick dispatch to his address from you under circumstances of Emergency that you may not be able to report officially seperately to the Major Genl. in order that your wants may meet with prompt relief when circumstances admit of his affording it to you.

Commodore Sir James Yeo returned here on Thursday last. His third Cruise I regret to say has not been marked with any advantage whatever on our part. A great deal of manouvering attended with distant cannonading in which the Enemy being favoured by the wind had probably the advantage. Four of our men were killed and I believe about the same number wounded. The commander sails again this evening with the Squadron and will afford convoy to all the small vessels with stores. If it is deemed elegible a proposed attack will be made on the Enemy's position at Fort George previous to Major General DeRothenburg getting that occupied by his division, which from the local defect it is exposed to, and the very harrasing duties intailed upon the Troops has introduces among them, disease and desertion to a very great degree.

I envelop a letter which I have received from Major McPherson commanding the 10th Royal Veterans Battalion, and you are requested to make the best arrangements, and afford such relief as is in your power.

I have the Honor to be Sir, Your Most Obedient
Humble Servant

EDWARD BAYNES, *Adgt. General*

Major Genl. PROCTOR, *Com'd the Right Division*

A True Copy. D. TRIMBLE *A. DeCamp*

General Orders

Montreal, October 18th, 1813.

Historical Register II, 605

The commander of the forces has the deepest regret in announcing to the army, that lieutenant Reiffenstein, a staff-adjutant, arrived yesterday, and is the bearer of the following unpleasant intelligence. That major-general Proctor having sustained, by the unfortunate capture of the squadron on Lake Erie, the loss of a very considerable portion of his military force, which was serving on board that fleet, as well as the principal heavy ordinance necessary for the defence of his military positions, commenced his retreat from the fort of Sandwich on the 24th September, having previously dismantled the posts of Amherstburg and Detroit, and burned and destroyed every public building and stores of every description.

The retreating regular force consisting of a small detachment of royal artillery, a troop of provincial dragoons, and the remains of the 41st regiment, in all about 450 rank and file—which was accompanied by a body of Indian warriors from 1000 to 1500.

The enemy's fleet and army appeared off Amherstburg on the 26th September, and landed on the following day, but soon re-embarked their troops and proceeded by Lake St. Clair, to the mouth of the Thames river. The American army was again landed, and accompanied by gun-boats, followed the route of major-general Proctor's corps, which having been much retarded by the slow progress of loaded batteaux, they were enabled to come up with the rear guard and loaded boats on the 3d instant, and succeeded in capturing the whole. Major-general Proctor being thus deprived of the means of supporting his little army, was under the necessity of awaiting the enemy's attack; which took place at 4 o'clock on the evening of the 5th instant, near the Moravian village.

A six-pounder on the flank was, by some unpardonable neglect, left destitute of ammunition, and the enemy, availing himself of this unfortunate circumstance, pressed upon that part of the line, which, wanting the support of artillery, was forced by the superior numbers of the enemy. Major-general Proctor exerted himself to rally the troops, who being exhausted with fatigue, not having received any provisions the

preceding day, were unable to make adequate exertions to resist the superior numbers by which they were assailed.

The safety of major-general Proctor, the officers of his personal staff, and some few others, together with about 50 men has only as yet been ascertained. The Indian warriors retreated towards Mackedash.

The enemy's forces employed on this service is estimated from 10 to 12,000 strong, including troops of every description.

EDWARD BAYNES, *Adj. Gen.*

PETITION

DETROIT Oct 19, 1813

Har. Pa. 208-210

To his Excellency Brigader General LEWIS CASS commanding the United States Troops, at Detroit.

The Petition of the citizens of the United States, of the District of Erie and Territory of Michigan

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY

The distressed farmers and settlers of the river Raisin, citizens of the United States, who have been drove from their homes since the month of January last, by the ferocious savages under the influence and direction of the British Government, and of whom a list accompanies the present, have appointed the subscribers a committee to represent to you their services and present disastrous situation, in full confidence from your Excellency's known philanthrophy, that you will take their peculiar case into your excellency's paternal consideration.

A short time before accounts of the declaration of war, with England reached this country, the citizens of Erie were called upon, by the local Government for a draft from the Militia for one company to be put into actual service; but the partiotism of this section of the country all volunteered their services to the General Government, to a man, and they proceeded to elect their own officers and organized the required quota; (independent of the Volunteers who joined the cavalry under the command of Capt. Richard Smith of Detroit, and were posted at the river Raisin as a detachment to protect the settlement and escort the mails to Detroit—most hazardous services).

Shortly after, owing to the egregious misconduct of Gen. Hull the savages joined the British, who excited them against that exposed section of the Territory, in consequence of which, the whole were called into service, and did actual duty in the Fort at the River Raisin, and in patroling parties in the vicinity, until accounts were received of the infamous capitulation at Detroit, by a British flag of truce, followed up by a band of savages, who generally plundered their private property, stole or wantonly destroyed their cattle and horses, in a most cruel manner; which was arrested only by the arrival of a detachment of the United States troops under the command of that brave veteran, Col. [William] Lewis who was immediately joined by a number of our Raisin citizens, aiding in the first victory, several of whom were afterwards slain in the last battle where a scene the most shocking to humanity, impossible to be pourtrayed by us, was perpetrated on the unfortunate prisoners of war who had surrendered on the word of General Proctor that they would be protected from the savages—but, where in the dwelling houses of Messrs. [Hubert] LaCroix, [George] McDougall, [Gabriel] Godfroy, and [Jean Baptiste] Conture (where the United States Detachment had intrenched themselves) they were cruelly mangled, and thrown alive in those buildings, which were purposely set on fire to conflagrate the unfortunate wounded. Others being left in the vicinity exposed on the roads to be eat up by the Hogs and Dogs!!!—*and not allowed to be interred*—and where their bones have lain exposed until lately, when through the auspicious bravery of the United States forces our appressors have been taken, or driven out of the country and the savages compelled to implore the clemency of the General Government. We beg leave to be excused for this painful digression, to return to the forlorn state of the settlement. The Indians, being irritated at the inhabitants for the active part they had taken against them, plundered and abused them afresh, several having made their escape towards the army at Fort Meigs and Sandusky, and the remainder driven from their homes to Detroit, where they have generally languished in poverty and distress, suffering, even here, every outrage from the savage barbarians. Deprived of all sustenance and famine staring them in the face, they confidently look up to *their country* for support, during the ensuing inclement season, inasmuch, as

they have never been renumerated, and have sacrificed their all in her service; humbly trusting that your Excellency will have compassion on their indigent state, and grant them immediate support, by a supply of provisions and ammunition and that your Excellency would be pleased to make a representation of their deplorable state to the President, and Congress of the United States, to grant them such relief in the premises as their wisdom may deem meet and as in duty bound the settlement of Erie will ever pray.

JOHN ANDERSON
GEO. MCDOUGALL
G. GODFROY

A Copy C. A. NORTON, *Aid-de-Camp*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

SACKETT'S HARBOUR 20th October 1813

Har. Pa. 91, 92

SIR:

The enemy's corps before fort George broke up their cantonments on the 9th and marched rapidly for Burlington Bay which he reached on the 11th. By taking this route he may intend to reinforce Proctor on the French River or Kingston at the head of the St. Lawrence. He was apprised of the abandonment of Malden on the 5th.

We are perhaps too remote to profit by each others suggestions. But it does not appear to me that Sandwich is the point at which Proctor will stop, if you pursue him. From point aux Pins on lake Erie there is a good road to Chatham on the Thames. The Distance not more than twenty-four miles. Were this gained and travelled back to Sandwich the enemy's means of subsistence might be destroyed and himself compelled to surrender. But of the practicability of this you are the best judge. My opinion is suggested by the Map.

The first Division of this army sailed two days ago—the 2nd and the reserve follow today.

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

No. 96

Head Quarters, ERIE PA. 22nd Oct. 1813

Har. Pa. 211, 212

SIR:

Soon after my letter to you of the 16th Inst. [see above]

was written, I was informed that a special messenger with dispatches from you had left Bass Island in the schooner Chippewa which had been driven from the mouth of the Detroit River in a violent storm and from the circumstance of a quantity of baggage belonging to the officers which was known to have been on board being found on the lake Shore. She was believed to have been lost. As I had nearly completed the arangement for a suspension of hostilities with the Indians, although I had no information as to the movement of the army on Lake Ontario, I determined to embark Genl. McArthur's Brigade and the batallion of U. States Riflemen and proceed with them down the lake until I could receive some certain information of the movements of the army under Genl. Wilkinson and what was expected from me. I arrived here this morning with Commodor Perry in the ariel having left the remainder of the fleet at Bass Island, it is probable they will be here this evening when we shall immediately proceed to Buffaloe. I have learnt that the Chippewa was not lost as was supposed at the upper end of the Lake but is on shore near to Buffaloe where the unfortunate messenger is said to have perished in endeavoring to reach the shore.

I have not above eleven hundred men with me.

I have the honor to be with great respect
Sir Your Humble Servant
WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

No. 97

Head Quarters BUFFALOE, N. Y. Oct. 24th 1813

Har. Pa. 213, 214

SIR:

I have this moment landed at this place, from on board of the Schooner Ariel which is one of the several vessels, with which I left Detroit, having on board the greater part of McArthur's Brigade and the detachment of the U. States Rifle Regiment under Col. [Thomas] Smith. The other vessels are all I believe in sight and will be up in a short time. The aggregate number of Troops with me is about thirteen hundred but not more than one thousand fit for duty. Before this reaches you, you will no doubt be informed of the loss of your Messenger Capt. Brown, with the dispatches that were en-

trusted with him. Not having received your directions and being entirely ignorant of the state of our military operations in this quarter, I was much at a loss to know how to proceed but believing that Genl. Cass with his Brigade would be able to secure Detroit and our adjacent Conquests, after having concluded an armistice with the greater part of the Hostile Tribes, I concluded that I could not do better than to move down the Lake with the remaining part of the Troops. A part of McArthur's brigade is still at the Bass Islands where they were left for the want of the means of conveyance, and a considerable portion of their baggage was also left from the same cause. Means have however been taken to collect and bring them on.

I shall move down the Troops immediately to Fort George where I shall await your orders unless an opportunity should previously occur of striking at the enemy the information I have received here of the situation and movements of the enemy on the Head of the Lake Ontario is vague and contradictory. I propose to send off my adjutant General Col. [Edmund P.] Gaines to see you in the morning, if his state of health will allow it.

Presuming that my official dispatches from Detroit via Washington must have reached you, I scarcely need add that on the 5th Instant, I was fortunate enough to overtake Genl. Proctor and after a short action to capture upwards of Six hundred of his regulars and to defeat and disperse his Indian force.

I have the honor to be with great Respect
Sir Your Humble Servant.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Honble JOHN ARMSTRONG Esq.

P. S. I have promised the bearer that you will reward him in proportion to the exertion he makes to deliver you this. It is now 2 o'clock P. M. W. H. H.

HARRISON TO GEN. VINCENT

Head-Quarters FORT GEORGE 3rd Nov. 1813

Har. Pa. 218-223

SIR:

Lieutenant LeBreton, an officer in your service, arrived at Detroit on the 15th Ultimo, bearing a flag and a letter to me

from General Proctor, requesting humane treatment for the prisoners in my possession and the restoration of private property and papers. This letter was directed to me at the Moravian Towns and as the subject was not of the importance to authorize the Lieutenant pursuing me to Detroit, I was somewhat surprised at his doing so. It did not appear proper to permit him to return in that way and as I was upon the point of setting out for this frontier by water, I conceived that that mode of conveyance would be fully as agreable to him and would enable him to meet General Proctor as expeditiously as by the land route. I regret that badness of the weather and other causes which he will explain has detained him until this time.

Understanding that you are the senior officer I have determined to address my answer to you. With respect to the subject of General Proctor's letter, those which I have the honor to enclose you from the British officers, who were taken on the 5th ultimo to their friends and the reports of Lt. LeBreton will satisfy you, that no indulgence which humanity could claim in their favor or the usages of War sanction has been withheld. The disposition of the property taken on the field of action or near it, was left to the commanding officer at Detroit. The instructions given to this gentleman and the well known integrity and generosity of his character will insure to the claimants the utmost justice and liberality in his decisions. In making this statement, I wish it however to be distinctly understood that my conduct with regard to the prisoners and the property taken has been dictated solely by motives of humanity and not by a belief that it could be claimed upon the score of reciprocity of treatment towards the American prisoners, who have fallen into the hands of General Proctor. The unhappy persons of that description who have excaped from the tomahawks of the savages in the employment of the British Government, under the immediate orders of that Officer, have suffered all the indignities and deprivations which human nature is capable of supporting. There is no single instance that I have heard of in which the property of the Officers has been respected. But I am far from believing that the conduct of General Proctor has been thought an example worthy imitation by the greater part of the British officers and in the Character of General Vincent I have a pledge that he will unite his exertions with mine to soften

as much as possible the fate of those whom the fortune of War may reciprocally place in our power.

But Sir, there is another subject upon which I wish an explicit declaration. Will the Indians who still adhere to the cause of his Brittanic Majesty be suffered to continue that horrible species of warfare which they have heretofore practised against our Troops and those still more horrible depredations upon the peaceble inhabitants of our frontiers? I have sufficient evidence to show that the latter have not always been perpetrated by small parties of vagrant Indians acting at a distance from the British army. Some of the most atrocious instances having occurred under the very eyes of the British Commander and the Head of the Indian Department. I shall pass by the tragedy of the River Raisin and that equally well known which was enacted at the Miami River after the defeat of Col. [William] Dudley and select three other instances of savage barbarity committed under the auspices of General Proctor.

In the beginning of June last a small party of Indians conducted by an Ottawa chief, who I believe is now with the British Army under your command, left Malden in bark canoes in which they coasted lake Erie to the mouth of Portage river, the canoes were taken across the portage to Sandusky bay, across which, the party proceeded to the mouth of Cold Creek and from thence by land to the settlements upon that creek where they captured three families consisting of one man and twelve women and children. After taking the prisoners some distance, one of the women was discovered to be unable to keep up with them in consequence of her advanced state of pregnancy. She was immediately tomahawked, stripped naked, her womb ripped open and the child taken out. Three or four of the children were successively butchered as they discovered their inability to keep up with the party. Upon the arrival of the Indians at Malden, two or three of the prisoners were ransomed by Col. Elliott and the others by the citizens of Detroit, where they remained until they were taken off by their friends upon the capture of that place by our army. *I have been informed that the savage Chief received from Col. Elliott a repremand for his cruelty.*

On the 29th or 30th of the same month, a large party of Indians were sent from Malden on a War Expedition to Lower

Sandusky. At a farm house near to that place they murdered the whole family consisting of a man, his wife son and daughter.

During the last attack upon Fort Meigs by General Proctor a party, headed by a Seneca, (an intimate friend of Tecumseh's) was sent to endeavor to detach from our interest the savages of Wapokonata. In their way hither they murdered several men and one woman who was working in her cornfield.

I have selected, Sir, the above from a long list of similar instances of barbarity which the history of the last 15 months could furnish because they were perpetrated if not in view of the British commander and by parties who came immediately from his company and returned to it. Who ever received their daily support from the King's Stores and who in fact (as the documents in my possession show) formed part of his army. To retaliate these upon the subjects of the King would have been justifiable by the Laws of War and by the usages of the most civilized nations. The tide of fortune has changed in our favour and an extensive and flourishing province opened to our army. Nor have instruments of vengence been wanting. The savages who have sued to us for mercy would gladly have shown their claims to it by reacting upon the Thames, the bloody scenes of Sandusky and Cold Creek. A single sign of approbation would have been sufficient to pour upon the subjects of the King their whole fury. The future conduct of the British officers will determine the correctness of mine in withholding it. If the savages should be again let loose upon our settlements I shall with justice be accused of having sacrificed the interest and honour of my country and the lives of my fellow citizens to feeling of false and mistaken Humanity. You are a soldier Sir, and as I sincerely believe possess all those honorable sentiments which ought always to be found in men who follow the profession of arms. Use then I pray you your authority and influence to stop that dreadful effusion of innocent blood which proceeds from the employment of those savage monsters whose aide (as must now be discovered) is so little to be depended upon when it is most wanted and which can have so trifling an effect upon the issue of the War. The effect of their barbarity will not be confined to the present generation. Ages yet to come will feel the effect

of the deep-rooted hatred and enmity which they must produce between the two Nations. I deprecate most sincerely the dreadful alternative which will be offered to me should they be continued, but I do most solemly declare that if the Indians that remain under the influence of the British Government are suffered to commit any depredations upon the citizen within the district that is committed to my protection, I will remove the restrictions which have been imposed upon those who offered their services to the United States and direct them to carry on the war in their own way. I have never heard a single excuse for the employment of the Savages by your Government unless we can credit the story of some British Officer having dared to assert that "as we employed the Kentuckians you had a right to make use of the Indians". If such injurious sentiments have really prevailed to the prejudice of a brave, well informed and virtuous people, it will be removed by the representations of your officers, who were lately taken upon the River Thames. They will inform you Sir, that so far from offering any violence to the persons of their prisoners, "these Savages" would not permit a word to escape them, which was calculated to wound or insult their feelings, and this too, with the sufferings of their friends and relatives at the River Raisin and Miami fresh upon their recollection.

I have the honor to be Sir, your very Humble Servant

Signed WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Maj. Gen. VINCENT *Commanding British Forces*
BURLINGTON HEIGHTS

P. S. I pledge myself for the truth of the above in relation to the murders committed by the Indians.

W. H. H.

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

BOONSVILLE 3d Nov. 1813

Har. Pa. 93, 94

DEAR GENERAL

I have fortunately met Colonel [E. P.] Gaines on the way to his Regt. The Deputy Paymaster should have orders to attend to the Brigade you have brought with you. Capt. [Robert] Butler will act as your asst. adjutant general and

shall receive an appointment as such. The officers of the several corps composing your Division, (as well those at fort George as General Cass's Brigade) not indispensable to the command of the troops now in the field should be immediately dispatched on the recruiting service. I need not invite your attention to a subject so important to the early and successful opening of the next campaign and to the extent and character of your particular command. Will the whole of Cass's brigade be wanted to the Westward? In the event of a peace with the savages a less force would be sufficient and to hasten and secure this event, the present moment and present impression must be seized. Of the warriors sueing for peace one or more should be sent by the nearest route and by the most expeditious mode to the Creek nation. The story of their defeat by you and subsequent abandonment by the British communicated by themselves would probably have a decisive effect on their red brethren of the South and save us the trouble and expense of beating them into a sense of their own interest. When I wrote to you from Wilna it was doubtful whether our attack would be made directly upon Kingston or upon Montreal. Reasons exist for prefering the latter course and have probably determined General Wilkinson to go down the St. Lawrence. In this case the enemy will have at Kingston, besides his fleet, a garrison of 12 or 1400 men. Had we not a corps in the neighborhood these might do mischief and even render insecure the winter station of our fleet. To prevent this (and when the frost has bridged the St. Lawrence to do more) it is deemed advisable to draw together at Sackett's Harbour a considerable military force. There are now at that post between four and five hundred men of all descriptions—sick, convalescent and effective. Colonel [Winfield] Scot's detachment (about 700) are on their march thither, and it is barely possible that Colonel [Thomas Mann] Randolph's (not arriving in time to move with the army) may be there also. This does not exceed 350. McArthur's Brigade added to these will make a force entirely competent to our objects. To bring this Brigade down the Lake you must have the aid of the fleet which will be readily given by Commodore [Isaac] Chauncey. On this point I shall write to him and suggest a communication with you in relation to it. This new disposition will render necessary the employment of so many of

the militia and volunteers now in service under General [George] McClure as you may deem competent to the safe keeping of Forts George and Niagara and their dependencies. It is not intended by these instructions to prevent either you or General McArthur from visiting your families or from going directly to them, if you so desire, from Fort George. In this case the command will devolve on Colonel [Alexander] Smith. To Genl. McArthur I would however barely suggest that I shall on my arrival at Albany institute a Court Martial for the trial of Hull—the court to sit at that place—and that in this event, it might be more convenient for the General to be at Sackett's Harbour. By the way this suggests also the necessity of immediately relieving General Cass (whose presence as a witness will be indispensable) and making such dispositions with regard to Majors [David] Tremble, [Thomas S.] Jessup and etc. as will best and most easily combine the public object with their personal convenience.

P. S. For the better accommodation of the troops it may be well to leave 500 of them at Oswego. They will there find good Barracks for that number and may be brought to Sackett's Harbour in a single day. The contractor ought to be apprised of the arrangement.

Major General HARRISON

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

Headquarters, NEWARK 8th Nov. 1813

Har. Pa. 215-217

SIR:

I had last evening the Honor to receive your favor of the 30th ultimo. The enemy are still at the Head of Burlington Bay but my utmost exertion to effect it, have not been sufficient to obtain such information as I can rely upon, in relation to their number or intentions. The necessity of driving them from thence was so apparent that I dispatched orders from Buffaloe on the 28th Ult. to General Cass to join me immediately with his Brigade and to General [John] Gano of the Ohio Militia to take the command at Detroit. Unluckily the vessel which took the order, was driven back and forced on shore at Buffaloe with three others. The dispatch to General Cass and another to Capt. [Jesse D.] Elliott, who now commands the vessels on Lake Erie were forwarded by land

to Erie. The Captain has declined the employment of any of his vessels but the five Gun boats and a schooner, for the transportation of the troops. Of these, one is on shore at Buffaloe and two are lying in the Head of Niagara River. As from these circumstances I could not calculate upon the arrival of Gen Cass time enough to assist in the operation against Burlington, I have countermanded the order for his coming down. General [George] McClure having informed me that he had authority to call for Militia from the neighouring counties of New York, I have directed him to call out one thousand and I have employed Gen. [Peter Buel] Porter and Col. Chapin to raise Volunteers, the whole to serve for one month after their arrival here. I have the honor to enclose you, returns of the regular troops and of General McClure's command. As the enemy must have at least one thousand Indians, you will, I am persuaded, agree with me as to the necessity of calling out an additional Militia force. It is much to be regretted that Col. [Winfield] Scott did not remain here with his command. With those I should not have hesitated to have advanced upon General Vincent. I still hope to be able to effect his removal. I shall have no doubt of it, if I can infuse into the New York Militia, the spirit that animates those from Kentucky. Every exertion is made to restore the health of the regular Soldiers but notwithstanding they are in good quarters and are well provided for, the number of sick has increased almost daily. A very considerable number are however convalescent.

The expedition to the Head of the Lake would be necessary to destroy the subsistence upon the road leading to the Thames to prevent the enemy from making any attempts to regain the upper province in that direction, in the event of their keeping possession of York. I found at Fort Niagara a sufficiency of many articles of clothing for my men, but they are in great want of Woollen overalls, some blankets, and stockings will be wanted also. May I hope that some of these articles will be forwarded immediately.

I have the honor to enclose you a copy of a letter received from General Proctor [see Oct. 8 above] by a flag before I left Detroit together with my answer directed to General Vincent. [Nov. 3 above] I thought the opportunity a good one, to bring forward the subject of Indian depredations.

Since I began this letter, a decent, respectable looking young man has arrived, who says he is a Sergeant in the Glengary Regiment and deserted in consequence of his having been disappointed of promised promotion. I enclose you a copy of his examination taken before General's McArthur and McClure [following]. The number of Indians is certainly exaggerated, but I do not believe that the amount of Regulars is much under what he makes them. As you will be possessed of all the information that I have upon the subject, I should like to receive your directions. Shall I advance upon the enemy if I can obtain one thousand additional Militia after leaving three hundred men in each of the Garrisons I shall then be enabled to march something upwards of two thousand.

I have the honor to be with High Respect and Consideration
Sir Your Humble Servant
WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Honble. JOHN ARMSTRONG Esq. *Secretary of War*

Examination of CHARLES JOHNSTON, A Deserter from the British Army

Har. Pa. 225

He belonged to the Glengary Regiment, left Burlington on the 7th at 9 o'clock acting as Assistant Provost martial that he left there, the whole of the Royal Scotch Regiment the whole of the 100th, the light company of the 8th and the remaining part of the 41st about 150 or 60 Dragoons. The light company of the Scotch Royals arrived a few days before he left Burlington. He believed that the whole of the forces amounted to 2000 regulars and 2000 Indians. They have a very large supply of provisions flour and pickled pork—part of which, they have been sending to York that a large quantity of presents were distributed amongst the Indians on Friday last. That he then saw them together and believes that there were 2000 warriors, that the Indians who escaped from the Battle of the Thames are all there, that the Prophet had appointed a succesor to his Brother Tecumseh who was killed in said battle.

Gen. Vincent to Harrison

Head Quarters Burlington Heights 10th November, 1813

Har. Pa. 230-232

Sir:

Lieut. LeBreton having delivered your letter of the 3rd inst. [see above] I have directed Capt. Merritt of the Provincial Dragoons to proceed with a Flag to Fort George as the Bearer of this acknowledgement of your obliging communication.

The account given of the British officers whom the fortune of War has lately placed at the disposal of the United States, is such as cannot fail affording very consoling reflections to this army and their anxious friends.

Tho you must be sensible that there are several points in your letter respecting which it is wholly beyond my power to afford you the satisfaction of an explicit declaration, yet be assured Sir I shall never feel the smallest degree of hesitation in joining you in any pledge, that it will ever be my anxious wish and endeavour to alleviate as much as possible the fate of those who may fall into my power by the chances of war.

Believe me Sir, I deprecate as strongly as yourself the perpetration of acts of cruelty committed under any pretext, and I shall lament equally with yourself that any state of things should produce them. No efforts of mine will be ever wanting to diminish the evils of a state of warfare, as far as may be consistent with the duties which are due to my King and Country.

The Indian when acting in conjunction with the Troops under my command, has been invariabley exhorted to mercy, and have never been deaf to my anxious entreaties on this interesting subject.

I shall not fail to transmit the original of your letter to the Lower Province for the consideration of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces. I feel particularly anxious to be made acquainted with your instructions relative to the disposal of the gallent and truly unfortunate Captain Barclay, whose wounds I lament to hear are such as to preclude all hope of his being ever again able to resume the honourable duties of his station. Under these circumstances I am induced to rely on your liberality and generous interferance to

obtain a release or parole that he may be allowed the indulgence of immediately proceeding to the Lower Province.

I have the Honor to be
your very Obeidient Servant
JOHN VINCENT *M. General*

His Excellency Major Gen. HARRISON
A true Copy JOHN O'FALLON *A. D. C.*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 99)

Head Quarters, NEWARK 11th Nov. 1813

Har. Pa. 225-228

SIR:

I had the honor to receive your letter of the 3d inst. the day before yesterday. [see above]

I fear there has been some mistake in relation to the period of service for which the Militia under General [George] McClure was called out. He says that it was for three months only and that the term of the whole will expire in three or four weeks. If that is the case and the Regular Troops are sent off Fort George will be left without defence unless a new draft is made immediately. General McClure has called for 1000 men from the two adjoining counties but they were called for one month only. I suppose however that as they are drafted men, the authority of the Governor would be sufficient to oblige them to stay. But the great difficulty will be in getting them to remain on this side or even to come over at all, when they discover that they are to be retained for three months. I give you this information, supposing that it might produce a countermand of the order for sending McArthur's brigade below. I should not think it safe, to bring Cass's brigade from Detroit at present. It was my intention, if my first order for their coming had been successful, to have sent them back from Long point after having visited Burligton. [George] Dixon passed up from York some time since, with a very large quantity of goods. It is possible that he may be able to induce the Potawatomes, Chippewas and Ottawas again to commence hostility. I am however, pretty confident that with a little attention and address, it may be prevented and perfect tranquility restored to the Western Country, which would enable the Government to use the whole of the resources of that country in the lower part of Canada. Within a few months

after security is given to the frontiers, our Treasury will receive the whole of the large sums which have been expended in that District back again for lands. There is much delicacy and some dificulty in determining what course is to be taken with the hostile Indians. Unless they are treated with some forbearance at first, they will conceive their situation so bad as to induce them to adopt some desperate course.

Before I received your letter I was well aware of the necessity of my returning to the Westward or having some person there, vested with general powers for the command of the District. It requires immediate attention. In my former letters I have mentioned the instructions given to the commandants upon the frontiers, to supply them with small quantities of provisions and ammunition. Unless this is done, they will starve or break upon the frontiers to obtain supplies. I recommend that a supply of goods be immediately sent to the Factor at Fort Wayne. It would be extremely gratifying to me and I believe promotive of the Public Interest if I could have an interview with you. Unless I receive before I leave this some unexpected information from the West (or orders to the contrary), it is probable that I may take Washington in my route. I am accustomed to travel with so much expedition that it would make no great difference in the time of my arriving in my district.

To my great disappointment and mortification, I find that there are but 400 Cartouch boxes to be procured for the militia that are expected. If they should not have them the expedition to the Head of the Lake cannot take place. There are neither tents nor camp kettles and I fear that the Militia of this frontier will not, like the Kentuckians, do without them. I am still in the dark as to the intentions of the Enemy at the Head of the Lake. I believe that they will retire to York, but so strong were the reports, that they were advancing upon us yesterday and had reached the 40 miles Creek (30 from this) that I changed the disposition of the troops to receive an attack.

With the highest consideration
I have the honor to be Sir
your Humble Servant
WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Hon. JOHN ARMSTRONG. Esq. *Secretary of War*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 100)

Headquarters NEWARK 14th Nov. 1813

Har. Pa. 229

SIR:

I understand that volunteers are coming on in considerable numbers to join me from the neighboring counties. I should have no doubt of giving a good account of General Vincent and his army if his position were not such as precludes I fear every hope of reaching him in any other way than by regular approaches. For operations of that kind we are entirely unprepared. However, I will go up, if the force that joins me is such as is expected and will do the best I can to prevent his being troublesome in future. I have an accurate delineation of his position, and if I mistake not, it is one of the strongest in America calculated either for defence retreat or to receive reinforcements from York. Notwithstanding the utmost care and attention both of the sick and well, my effective regular force daily decreases. I shall not be able to march more than six hundred rank and file.

I have the honor to enclose you a copy of General Vincents answer to my letter to him of the 3rd instant. [see Nov. 10 above]

With the highest consideration and regard
I am sir your, Humble Servant.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Hon. JOHN ARMSTRONG.

P. S. Col. Wilcox just informed me that the enemy are building largely at York and have a considerable force there.

W. H. H.

HARRISON TO CLARKE

Head Quarters, NEWARK 15th Nov. 1813

Har. Pa. 236, 237

DEAR SIR:

Being ordered to the Westward you will be pleased to resume the command, which you exercised previously to my arrival on this frontier. The orders which you have heretofore receive will govern you. It will be necessary that you keep a vigilant eye over the disaffected part of the inhabitants

and I recommend that you make use of the zeal, activity and local knowledge which Col. Wilcox certainly possesses to counteract the machinations of our enemy and assure the confidence of our friends amongst the inhabitants. It will however, I am pursuaded, be your wish as it is your duty, to guard the latter as much as possible from oppression.

The volunteers which were lately called out, will be retained as long as you consider their services necessary. The drafted militia, untill further orders are received from the Sect. of War. There can be little doubt of its being the in tention of the enemy to send the greater part of the troops, which they have at Burlington and York to Kingston, and to make York the right of their line, they may however leave a small command at Burlington and these may be so securely posted as to render them safe from any desultory expedition you may set on foot but it is desirable to have any supplies which they may have collected at the Mills in the neighbourhood, destroyed, and should the success below be not such as to promise possession of the whole of the upper province, the mills may be destroyed.

Capts. [John] Leonard and [James] Reed or either of them are appointed to muster your troops when and where you may think proper.

In closing this communication, I should not do justice to my feelings, if I were not to acknowledge the zeal and talents with which you have managed your command. Your conduct appears to me to have been extremely judicious and proper throughout and your troops exhibit a State of improvement and subordination which is at once honorable to your officers and themselves.

I am very sincerely Your
friend and Humble Servant

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Brig. Gen. W. CLARKE

P. S.

With regard to the inhabitants of the country who have been taken up as spies or for other causes, I have been in a great degree governed by the opinions of Col. Wilcox. I recommend the same course to you, unless you should discover that it leads to an improper result. W. H. H.

McCLURE TO HARRISON

FORT GEORGE, November 15, 1813

Har. Pa. 241

SIR:

The subject of our conversation this morning has occupied my most serious reflections. The deadly blow heretofore given to the patriotism of our citizens on this frontier, have prepared them for murmurs and complaints. Those who are now on the march have left their homes and their business under great sacrifices with the certainty of being brought into action. The last address which I issued under your directions and which I am happy to find has met your approbation, gives them reason for indulging the expectation of service, and they are anxious to drive the enemy from their borders forever. The high character of Gen. Harrison, combined with these circumstances, has excited strong interest in the public mind relative to our operations.

In this peculiar situation of affairs, I feel it to be due to the gallant volunteers and militia who are assembled and collecting, and to my own reputation, most respectfully to solicit, that if it is not incompatible with your instructions and your better judgment, you will not abandon our projected expedition against Burlington Heights. Such is the anxious wish of the Militia and I have no doubt the soldiers under your command are equally if not more desirous of the employment.

My anxiety on the subject, I trust will excuse the appearance of any disrespect in making this communication which certainly is far from my feelings. My confidence in the valor, ability, and prudence of Gen. Harrison, will dispose me most cheerfully to submit to any arrangements he may be bound to make, however great may be my disappointment in their result.

I have the honor to be, Sir Your Humble Servt.

GEO. McCLURE

Major General HARRISON

HARRISON TO McCLURE

Head Quarters, NEWARK Nov. 15, 1813

Har. Pa. 238, 240

DEAR SIR:

Your letter to me of this morning has been received. I feel most severely the weight of the reasons which you urge for

the prosecution of the intended expedition to Burlington. The disappointment however, of the brave and patriotic men who have turned out under the expectation of serving their country effectually in the field at this inclement season is the most painful circumstance attending it, as I am well convinced from the information received this morning and last evening that the enemy are moving as fast as possible from the Head of the Lake to Kingston, which has been left with a very small part of the force that was lately there, and it is more than probable that should we advance in force the enemy having none but effective men at Burlington would destroy the stores, which they have remaining there and retreat too rapidly to be overtaken. These are considerations however which would make it extremely desirable to make an exhibition of force in that quarter. But the orders I have received from the Secretary of War leaves me no alternative.

Comodore Chauncy is extremely pressing that the troops should immediately embark, declaring that the navigation at this season to small vessels is very dangerous. The force at Sackets harbour is very small, less by one Regiment than the Secretary of War supposed it would be when he gave me the order for the embarkation of the Regular Troops that are here. The troops at York are all hastening down to Kingston. Sackets harbour may be endangered by even the delay of a few days and should the troops that are here not get down before the Lake is frozen, our fleet may be destroyed for the want of their aid. I cannot therefore, take upon myself the responsibility of delaying their going down even a day.

Will you be so obliging at the proper time as to explain the above circumstances to the Patriots who have left their homes with the intention of assisting me to drive the Enemy far from our borders, and assure them that I shall ever recollect with the warmest gratitude the partiality which they have been pleased to express for me and their preference of serving under my Command.

I will direct payment to be made to the volunteers for rations and forage in coming on.

Accept my best wishes for your health
and happiness and believe me
sincerely your friend.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 101)

Head Quarters NEWARK 16th Nov. 1813

Har. Pa. 234

SIR:

Comodore Chauncey with the Fleet arrived here yesterday morning and informed me that he was ready to receive the Troops to convey them down the Lake and that the season was so far advanced rendering the navigation dangerous to the smaller vessels, that it was desirable they should be embarked as expeditiously as possible. As a very small part of the militia and Volunteers had arrived and the situation of Sacketts Harbour appearing to me to require immediate reinforcement I did not think proper to take upon myself the responsibility of postponing the departure of the Troops for the Lower part of the Lake conformably to the directions contained in your letter of the 3rd Instant. The information I received yesterday from two respectable citizens that were taken near to Fort Meigs in June last and who made their escape in an open boat from Burlington confirmes me in the propriety of sending them off. These men state the troops were hurrying to Kingston from York as fast as possible. The regulars going down in boats and Militia bringing the latter back.

The troops are now all embarked and are under the command of Col. Smith who is an officer in whose capacity and bravery the greatest relyance may be placed.

I shall set out this evening for the seat of Government.

I have the honor to be with the highest consideration, Sir, Your Humble Servant.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

JOHN ARMSTRONG Esq *Sect. of War*

MCCLURE TO HARRISON

FORT GEORGE, 16th November, 1813

Har. Pa. 235

MY DEAR SIR:

I cannot suffer you to depart from this post without expressing to you the great satisfaction I have received from our intercourse and my extreme regret that its continuance is so short. You carry with you, Sir, the highest esteem and

the warmest admiration of every officer and soldier under my command who has had any opportunity of forming an acquaintance with you.

Your recommendations will meet with every attention and respect in my power, and I shall only regret that you are not here yourself to execute them.

For the terms of approbation which you have been pleased to use in speaking of my conduct, I can tender you only my thanks.

With the warmest wishes for your health and prosperity and that of your officers with whom I have had the pleasure of an acquaintance.

I remain with utmost respect
Your friend and servant

GEO. MCCLURE

Major Gen. HARRISON

POSEY MESSAGE TO ASSEMBLY

December 6, 1813

Western Sun, December 25, 1813
Dillon, *History of Indiana, 527*

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council and of the House of Representatives:

The period which calls you in your legislative capacity having arrived, it is with pleasure I give my attendance and will cheerfully coöperate with you in exerting to promote the public good and welfare of the Territory.

The present crisis is awful and big with great events; our land and nation is involved in the common calamity of war, but we are under the protecting care of the beneficent Being who has, on a former occasion, bro't us in safety through an arduous struggle, and placed us on a foundation of independence, freedom, and happiness. He will not suffer to be taken from us what he in his great wisdom has tho't proper to confer and bless us with, if we make a wise and virtuous use of his good gifts.

In the present contest with Great Britain, in contending for the preservation of our dearest rights it would be improper to omit our supplications to that Almighty Being, who rules over the universe, who presided in the councils of na-

tions, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect. We have great reason to be thankful to him for the success of our arms by land and water. Altho' our affairs at the commencement of the war wore a gloomy aspect, they have brightened and promise a certainty of success, if properly directed and conducted,—of which I have no doubt, as the President and heads of departments of the general government are men of undoubted talents, patriotism, and experience, and who have grown old in the service of their country. We have reason to be thankful that such men are at the head of our affairs. Our army and navy have brought to view officers of the greatest bravery, patriotism, skill, and enterprise. Our soldiers and seamen, tho' almost undisciplined, have in many instances, fought with as much bravery and perseverance as the most hardy veterans. If there is so great a promise at so early a period of the war, what must be our prospects should the war continue? Our cause is just, and if we have virtue and constancy what is there to cause doubt of success? It must be obvious to every thinking mind that we were forced into the war. Every measure consistent with honor, both before and since the declaration of war, has been tried to be upon amicable terms with our enemy. If they will not listen to reciprocity, and be at peace with us, where is the man who is a friend to his country that will not give a helping hand and use his best exertions to preserve and maintain inviolate the just rights of his country? It is to be hoped there is none such.

I now come to the part we are more immediately interested in. Upper Canada is nearly or altogether in possession of the armies of the United States. This is a happy event for the peace and security of the western country. We partake in a very essential degree of the blessing. The communication being cut off between the British and Indians, will ensure peace with the latter; and I hope and trust what has caused our country to expend so much blood and treasure will never be resigned or relinquished. It is essentially necessary that the United States should hold possession of Upper Canada at least; and true policy would dictate to our government to get possession (and keep it) of both Upper and Lower Canada—making the citizens free and independent, though to form a part of the Union. I could wish, and am fully of opinion, that it would be the interest of the United States if the whole

of the British possessions or dominions in North America were independent of Great Britain.

There is a bill before Congress, introduced by Mr. [James] Kilbourn, of the State of Ohio, purporting to lay off a district of country upon our northwestern frontiers, stretching from the Connecticut Reserve and lake Erie to the Mississippi, and giving a certain quantity of land as a donation to all who may become actual residents. Should the bill pass into a law there can be very little doubt of the speedy settlement of the district,—which, together with Upper Canada in our possession, will form a barrier that may bid defiance to any Indian hostilities on any of our frontiers east of the Mississippi, and no doubt will afford protection to the Missouri territory.

I will now call to your attention such subjects as require the deliberations of your present meeting. Much depends upon you, gentlemen, in bringing to maturity such laws as will have a tendency to render equal justice to each individual of the community, and promote the general welfare of the Territory. You, who reside in various parts of the Territory, have it in your power to understand what will tend to its general and local advantage.

The judiciary system would require a revisal and amendment. The militia law is very defective and requires immediate attention. It is necessary to have good roads and highways, in as many directions through the Territory as the circumstances and situation of the inhabitants will admit of; it would contribute very much to promote the settlement and improvement of the Territory. Attention to education is highly necessary; there is an appropriation made by congress in land, for the purpose of establishing public schoools. It comes now within your province to carry into operation the design of the appropriation. The situation and state of the treasury is a necessary subject for your consideration; a statement (marked A) [omitted] of the disbursements of the appropriation made by the legislature at their last session, constituting a contingent fund subject to my disposition, is herewith transmitted.

All the necessary documents relative to the situation of the territory and other subjects as they may occur, shall be communicated from time to time, thro' the course of the session.

I wish you a pleasant session, recommending harmony and dispatch of business.

THOMAS POSEY

Harrison on the Militia

Toast at Philadelphia Dec. 9, 1813

Niles' Register

Gentlemen:

Permit me to offer you a volunteer toast, and very briefly to state the motive which prompts me to take one of the regular toast of the day as a mean of communicating my opinion. Believing, as I do, that a sentiment is gaining ground unfriendly to republicanism and injurious to the nation, and knowing from my own experience, that the sentiment is not well founded, I will give you

The Militia of the United States. They possess the Roman spirit and when our government shall think proper to give them that organization and discipline of which they are susceptible, they will perform deeds that will emulate those of the legions led by Marcellus, and Scipio.

Harrison to Secretary of War

Washington City 21st December, 1813

Har. Pa. 245-246

Sir:

The probability of the Ohio being soon closed with ice has determined me to proceed to the westward tomorrow, altho I should have been extremely glad to have had the honour of another interview with you. At Cincinnati I shall wait your further instructions. The President is apprehensive that the enemy will make and attempt this winter to re-occupy Malden and Detroit. An enterprise of that kind is not very improbable for the purpose of regaining the confidence of the Indians. As General Cass has been withdrawn, I think it important that some officer of rank and talents should be sent to succeed him. Gen. [Benjamin] Howard can be spared from the Missouri Territory. To the Military Talents of Governor [William] Clark and his intimate acquaintance with the Indians our affairs in that quarters can be safely confided.

If the determination of the Government in relation to the late hostile Indians should be such as you suggested and which I believe is approbated by the President, it is requisite that immediate attention be given to that subject to anticipate the British Agents who will certainly be at work amongst them.

Those that were formerly employed should be immediately paid. A distribution of goods should take place to relieve their immediate and pressing wants and moderate quantities of provision and ammunition furnished. The late hostile chiefs were very desirous of knowing whether the former boundary of their lands was to continue. Upon this subject I have had some conversation with the President and some of the leading western members their opinions seem all decidely to coincide with mine that the Indians ought to be made easy in this particular because it is evident that upon the restoration of peace any extinguishments of title which the United States may acquire can be effected for a consideration so trifling that it ought not to be regarded.

A considerable portion of the Ohio Militia now in service may be dismissed, a few will be necessary to garrison certain posts upon the frontiers. Shall I expect your particular directions as to the number of those to be kept up? Most of the Rangers may also be dismissed. One company at St. Louis will I think be sufficient for that quarter. But it will be necessary to raise one at Detroit. I deem this an indispensable measure to the safety of that country. What shall be done with the horses of [S. G.] Hopkin's Troops of Light Dragoons which were left at Cleveland? There is also a quantity of public property at all the Posts in Ohio which is no longer useful. Shall it be collected and sold?

From a letter which has been written from the War Office since your departure to the Northern Frontier, I perceive that Gen. Howard has been authorised to consider himself as having an Independent command. It will therefore require a letter from you directing him to repair to Detroit or requiring him to receive my orders.

Upon the subject of Indian affairs I should be glad to receive your directions in detail and permit me to request that your answer to this letter may be immediately forwarded to Cincinnatti to meet me upon my arrival there.

I have the honor to be with the Most Respectful Consideration

Sir, Your Humble Servant,

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Honble. JOHN ARMSTRONG

Posey Special Message

Corydon, Dec. 27, 1813

Western Sun, February 19, 1814
Dillon, *History of Indiana, 529, note*

The honorable the President of the Legislative Council:

Sir: I wish you to communicate to your honorable body that the delicate state of my health will not admit of my longer continuance at this place, [Corydon]. I find myself badly situated on account of the want of medical aid; my physician is at Louisville, and I have taken the medicine bro't with me. The weather is moderate now, which will be favorable to my going on to Jeffersonville, where any communications that the two houses of the Legislature may have to make will find me. Mr. [Basil?] Prather will, in the most expeditious manner, bring them on, and it will take but a short time for me to act upon them and for his return, which would not detain the Legislature in session more than a day longer. Be assured, sir, that nothing but imperious necessity compels me to this step.

Accept of assurances of my high respect for yourself and your honorable body.[1]

Th: Posey

Secretary of War to Harrison

War Department Dec. 29th 1813

Har. Pa. 85, 86

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st and 22d instant. [see above]

Captain [Charles Scott] Todd has been, as you wished, appointed an asst. to Inspector General, in the room of Lieut.

1. The Governor's decision to leave the capital for his home before the end of the legislative session excited some censure, as is shown by the following communication to the *Western Sun*, Feb. 19, 1814:

"*Mr.* [*Elihu*] *Stout*, [*Editor*]:

"It is said in some parts of this Territory that the murmur raised in Vincennes against the Governor, on account of his leaving the seat of government during the session of the legislature, is unfounded, and treating him with ingratitude, for that his leaving the seat of government during the session, was known to the legislature, and by them approved of. To put a stop to the error, I give you a copy of his excellency's letter to the president of the Legislative Council, and the resolution entered into immediately upon reading his letter, which I trust will be sufficient evidence to the people of the Territory that the Legislative Council did not approve of his plan, mode, and

[Levi] Hukill deceased. Lieut. [David] Tremble will be placed where you desire, if it be practicable. You are apprised of the excitement and clamor which follows the introduction of strangers into old Corps, and in violation of the rule of seniority. It is this circumstance that gives occasion to any degree of doubt on the subject.

Dr. [Edward] Scull shall be appointed to the 19th Regiment. I am entirely of opinion that the enemy will endeavour to reestablish himself to the West. The failure of the campaign on the St. Lawrence, and the late abandonment of the Peninsula by General McClure will quicken his hopes and endeavours in the prosecution of this policy. To recover his ascendency over the Indians, he must stretch himself to the Westward and take a position which will facilitate his communications with them. The British Settlements on the Thames will furnish this position. These facts indicate the course we ought to pursue.

1st. These settlements must be broken up and converted into a desart or they must be held by a superior force—a force competent to controul the inhabitants and to meet any auxiliary means General Prevost may detach for the purpose of recovering what Proctor has lost. Between these two modes of proceeding we cannot hesitate—the former is the cheapest and surest.

2nd. We must conciliate the late hostile tribes and make them parties with us in the War. This cannot be done but by supplying their wants and by assuring them that their present boundaries shall continue, as though no War had arisen between us.

3rd. Thus engaged, they should be led early in the Spring against the British frontier. Let loose upon that and well directed, we should not by the 1st day of June have a British

manner of abandoning the seat of government. [Here follows the Governor's message, as given above.]

"On motion of Mr. [Walter] Wilson, [of Knox] the Legislative Council came to the following resolution: 'Whereas, it hath been represented to this house that his excellency the Governor is about to leave the seat of government and go to the town of Jeffersonville, in Clark county,—*Resolved*, therefore, by the Legislative Council and House of Representatives, that the committee of enrolled bills be instructed not to deliver the enrolled bills to any person except his excellency.' This resolution was sent to the House of Representatives for concurrence; the following day the House of Representatives informed the Council that they had concurred in the above resolution. By the above letter and resolution you must think that the Governor's leaving the seat of government met with the disapprobation of the Legislature.

A SUBSCRIBER."

settler west of Kingston. A question may occur here—under what, if any restrictions as to their mode of warfare we ought to employ them? This question has in it no difficulty. Under what justification do we employ them at all? The example of the enemy. It was not our choice but theirs, and but an appeal made to their fears after having unsuccessfully made many to their justice. The experiment should therefore have fair play. All the horrors brought to our firesides ought to be carried to theirs. Nor is this a policy of mere retaliation. The settlements in upper Canada abandoned their posts cannot be supplied, and will of course be also abandoned.

General Mason will receive directions to forward supplies agreeably to a list which I understand you left with him and it will be for you to judge of the quantities of provision and ammunition that shall be distributed. Such portions of the Ohio Militia as can in your opinion be safely dispensed with should be immediately discharged. The 1st and part of the 24th Regt. of Infantry should be withdrawn, and put on their march for Sackett's Harbour. General [Benjamin] Howard's opinion may decide what portion of the Rangers may be retained in Service. If two or more of these be thought useless, at St. Louis or its vicinity, two others may be substituted for them at Detroit. General Howard will be instructed to take your orders.

I cannot add by anything I can say to the interest you will take in filling up the Regiments of the Line which have hitherto formed your Division. Most of these have been raised and will be recruited within your District. If any new legislative measures be taken in relation to the recruiting service they shall be immediately communicated. It is worthy of inquiry how many Riflemen could be engaged under the denomination of Volunteers, within the State of Kentucky for the ensuing campaign and within what time they could be brought to Sackett's Harbour.

The Horses of [S. G.] Hopkin's troop may be sold and those and other articles the property of the public to which you allude, and which do not appear to be longer useful. A report of the articles and the prices at which they shall be sold will be sent to this office. The enemy have crossed the Niagara, burnt Lewiston and carried Fort Niagara by *surprise*. These new and humiliating circumstances furnish fresh reasons for

quickness and vigor in the course we adopt for engaging the Indians and otherwise defending what your last Campaign has given us. Will the fleet be safe at Erie and at put-in-Bay? If not, should you not take that circumstance into the account and make provision accordingly?

Major Genl. HARRISON CINCINNATI, O.

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

(No. 102)

Head Quarters, PITTSBURGH, 29th Dec. 1813

Har. Pa. 248

SIR:

You have been informed that the two ships, taken by Comodore Perry from the enemy were left at Put in Bay under the protection of a small guard of Infantry. As there can be no doubt but the enemy will make every exertion to destroy our fleet on Lake Erie and as it can easily be effected with regard to these at the Bay without much difficulty, I think we should anticipate them and destroy them ourselves. The guns on board these vessels would be of immense importance to the enemy. Without them they could not arm their vessels, even should they succeed in building one or two at Long Point after destroying the whole of ours. I think that this subject requires immediate attention.

Permit me to remind you of the claims of Col. Smith for the command of the contemplated Rifle Brigade.

Our vessels at Erie should in my opinion be enclosed with Picketts, it would not be difficult to effect it.

I have the Honor to be with great Respect
Sir Your Humble Servant
WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Hon. JOHN ARMSTRONG. Esq *Secretary of War*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT January 1st 1814

Har. Pa. 87, 88

SIR:

We are advised by Genl. [James] Wilkinson that a corps of two thousand five hundred men were pushed up the St. Lawrence by forced marches for Kingston. It is less probable that

this corps is destined against Sackett's Harbour as suggested by the General than that it is going westward to re-establish the British power on the Detroit or to take the place of corps who may have already moved with that intention.

We are advised also by captain [Jesse D.] Elliott that the ships in put-in bay may require some troops for their protection during the winter. Of the number of these you will be the most competent judge. The vessels at Erie are also to be protected, but for these I shall make provision through the Governor of Pennsylvania and by recruits from Pittsburg.

Genl. [Lewis] Cass's Brigade has suffered a most rapid and alarming diminution. At the date of his last Brigade return, his rank and file fit for duty did not exceed 470 and this is said to have been since reduced to less than half that number. An epidemic little, if at all under the control of medicine, is believed to be the cause. This circumstance and that contained on the first paragraph of this letter offer sufficient reasons for continuing the Ohio Regiments of Militia in service, until by other calls or by the organization of a Volunteer force (which may be better) you may be able to meet the exigencies of the moment.

The President bids me to say to you, that on reflection he thinks the measure indicated in my last letter with regard to the British settlers on the Thames is more severe than may be proper and that of course you will change it for the following viz: to make prisoners and remove to our settlements, so many of the male British settlers as may be most disposed to do us harm.

Major Genl. HARRISON

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT Jany. 8th, 1814

Har. Pa. 89

SIR:

The measure you suggest of burning the ships in Put-in Bay can only be resorted to when all others calculated for their defense have failed. The ships themselves present a heavier battery than any that can be brought against them on the ice. If therefore precautions be taken against boarding they may winter securely. Some efficient officer and a competent garrison should occupy the Block House. Genl.

[Lewis] Cass has probably left Detroit for Albany. General [Benjamin] Howard should lose no time in pressing forward to the former of these places.

There are about twelve hundred public arms at Cleveland with which you will arm any new corps of militia to be called out or which, should the enemy continue to ascend the Lake and burn the Villages, you may distribute for purposes of defence.

Major Genl. HARRISON

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT January 11th, 1814

Har. Pa. 95

SIR

You are authorized to invite the late hostile Indians to a Treaty of Peace. Time must be allowed for General Mason to get forward his supplies. You will select the place of holding the treaty. Fort Wayne suggests itself. Let us know your decision with regard to both time and place as early as possible.

Major General HARRISON

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT January 13th 1814

Har. Pa. 96

SIR:

Herewith inclosed you will receive a copy of a requisition made by General Cass for a detachment of Militia from the State of Ohio and a copy of my letter to the Governor on the subject. You will adopt such further arrangements as the good of the service may require.

Major Genl. HARRISON, CINCINNATI

PREVOST TO DICKSON

Jan. 14, 1813

Mich. Pio. and Hist. Soc. Pub. XV, 218

Reposing especial trust in your Zeal, loyalty and ability, I have been induced to appoint you to be agent for the Indians of the several Nations to the Westward of Lake Huron, by

Commission dated on the 1st Jany. 1813, with a salary of £200 per Annum payable through the accounts of the Indian Department and the several allowances of a superintendent together with an allowance of £300 A. H. C. per Annum which will be paid you from another source, to cover all traveling and contingent expenses.

It appears to be highly expedient for the benefit of the Public Welfare in this part of H. M. Dominions that as effective an Indian force as practicable should be brought forward next spring from amongst the Western Nations, to be employed when circumstances may require their Aid in the Province of Upper Canada. With a view therefore to accomplish this object and to give greater respectability and efficacy to your exertions, you are hereby furnished with a Commission from me, and you are required to proceed without delay upon the Service.

I approve of LaBaye [Green Bay] and Chicago being the place of rendezvous for the Indians, where as many of the articles stated in the returns submitted by you to the Confidential Board at Montreal, as can be furnished will be ordered to be sent as early as possible in the spring from Amherstburg and Michilimackinac, and you have authority to purchase such provisions as may be absolutely necessary for the subsistence of the Indians until the several Articles arrive, as also some Tobacco & Liquor, to be given them as a regale. When Collected You will report the same to the Officer Commg in Upper Canada, stating to him the Number of Warriors disposable, and wait instructions for their movements from thence according to the Circumstances of the War.

You have Authority to make such requisitions as may be necessary upon H. M. Indian storekeepers or other proper officers for such goods and provisions, as from time to time shall be Considered needful for the accomplishment of the Object in View, such requisitions being with the Knowledge & Concurrence of the Officer Comg. H. M. Forces at the Post where the requisition is made, Instructions to this effect will be given to the proper Officers by Majo Genl Sheaffe and Sir John Johnson.

Amable Chevalier the Ottawa Indian will be allowed to accompany you upon your intended excursion and may be considered as a Lieut. & Interpreter and receive pay of 5 s. Currency per day. Captain Norton may also proceed with you

from Niagara to Amherstburg, and return as soon as possible if Major Genl. Sheaffe can dispense with his services for the period he would be absent.

You will be allowed to employ a number of officers, not exceeding Five Who must be men of intelligence and confidence, & a Number of Interpreters well versed in the languages of the Western tribes not exceeding 15, being in all 20. The Officers will hereafter be furnished with Commissions as Lieutts. with Provincial rank and the pay of 6s 6d per day and allowances, The Interpreters will have warrants & pay at the rate of a Dollar a day & allowances. The above numbers of officers and interpreters are mentioned in the Anticipation that upwards of 1000 picked Warriors will be Collected. If less than that number the Officers and interpreters should be in proportion.

During the period of your present employment it is to be understood that you are not to be engaged in any trade whatever, & your appointment is only intended during the war with the United States, unless Government should see fit at the peace to prolong it. It is also to be understood that the subordinate appointments are only to continue during the war.

In the policy to be strictly observed, in your conduct towards the different tribes, it is desirable that you should endeavour to conciliate them to act together harmoniously, that you should restrain them by all the means in your power from acts of Cruelty and inhumanity, encouraging in them a disposition to preserve an alliance of friendship with their great father the King of England, by whose special favour they are indulged with his protection, and that the presents and other comforts they now receive flow from his bounty, in his kind consideration to preserve them and their families from the miseries to which they are exposed by an Enemy overrunning their Country.

The Indians in General should be instructed to hold out to all Americans whether in arms or otherwise that they must retire beyond the boundary line fixed by Wayne's treaty and that no Americans can be allowed to remain on the Indian side of the line, without the risk of being treated as enemies, except where reserves have been granted by treaties with the Indians, and it is to be clearly understood that the Indians only are to appear as the movers in such proceedings.

You will report to me from time to time by the most ex-

peditious route all your proceedings & you will carefully maintain a communication with the officers commg His Majesty's Forces in U. Canada, respecting the success or difficulties which may attend the important service you have undertaken.

GEORGE PREVOST, *Com. of the Forces*

To ROBERT DICKSON

GANO TO HARRISON

Head Quarters, O. M. LOWER SANDUSKY
January 17, 1814

Am. Sta. Pa. Mil. Aff. I, 656

DEAR GENERAL:

The disagreeable news from below occasions me to have great anxiety for the vessels at Put-in-bay. I proceeded a few days ago to Portage, in order to cross to see their situation; the ice prevented my going by water and was not sufficient to bear. I have, however, been relieved by a visit from Lieutenant Champlain, and Doctor Eastman of the navy, who came up the night before last and returned yesterday; they came over on the ice, though it was very thin in places. The lieutenant informs me he has ten seamen and forty soldiers, and has his vessels and guns so prepared, that, in case of an attack, he can bring about forty to bear from on board and a small block-house, on the rocky point of land near the vessels. I shall, by his request, and my own opinion of the necessity of the measure, send a reinforcement of about thirty of the regulars from Seneca, as soon as the ice is sufficiently strong to bear them. At the fort at Portage I have one hundred militia, which may render them some assistance if necessary; my troops are very much scattered, and I believe every post is in a tolerable state of defence. The troops have had immense fatigue since they have been out, they are now more healthy, and appear in better spirits since two months' pay has come on, though nothing will induce them to continue longer than their term of service, which expires the last of next month. Majors Vance and Meek arrived three days ago from Detroit, and have an exalted opinion of the vigilance and arrangements of Colonel Butler; the officers Captains Holmes and Hill, commanding Malden and Sandwich, have put themselves in the best possible state of defence. A detachment under the command of Major Smiley has gone up the river

Thames. The militia at Detroit are discontented, a number sick, some dead, etc. I have been hawk and buzzard as to supplies—the commissary and contractor—and I fear that with all the exertions that can be made some of the posts must suffer; at Meigs no flour, and two or three other posts in the nearly the same situation. I called on the contractors and urged the necessity of immediate supplies, but I cannot rely on their promises. The want of forage has nearly destroyed all the transport on this line; I have urged Captain Gardner to supply the agent of that department, at this place, with funds for that purpose but to no effect. I have been lately very unwell, but have recovered, except a lame ancle. As it is uncertain where this will meet you, I shall not give a detailed account until I know where you are, and will then write more fully, and send you a report of the troops under my command.

I have the honor to be, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN S. GANO

P. S. Six o'clock P. M. An express from Erie has just arrived here, a naval officer with a letter from General Cass, and a request from Captain Elliot for a reinforcement for Put-in-Bay of two hundred men. I have ordered Lieutenant McFarland from Seneca with all his effective regulars, about thirty able to march being all the disposable force I have, except a small command at Portage erecting a fortification there, from which I will detach a part, though the whole cannot make more than a third of the number required. From information there is not the least doubt but an attempt will be made to take or destroy the vessels; it is the opinion of Lieutenant Packet and General Cass also. Will it not be proper to send on some regular troops or militia from the interior without delay?

JOHN S. GANO

His Excellency WM. H. HARRISON

HARRISON TO SHELBY

Head Quarters CINCINNATTI 17th Jany. 1814

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book B" 48

DEAR SIR

The situation of our frontiers requiring in my opinion all the regular Troops to be marched from the interior I must

request your Excellency to detach a command of one Lieutenant one Ensign and sixty-five non-Commissioned Officers and privates to guard the Arsenal and the Prisoners of war at Newport.

I have the honour to be with great respect & consideration

Your Excellency

Humble servt.

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

GOV. ISAAC SHELBY, FRANKFORT

GANO TO HARRISON

Head Quarters, O. M. LOWER SANDUSKY,
January 25, 1814

Am. Sta. Pa. Mil. Aff. I, 656

DEAR GENERAL:

Yours of the 16th inst. I received this day, and directed my brigade major to make the enclosed report, by which you will see the situation of the troops under my command. I have issued orders as per enclosed copies. The difficulty in forwarding provisions, owing to the impossibility of transportation by land, has been and is, severely felt; the troops at Meigs have been obliged to take flour from Winchester themselves, there being no other means of transport, and are now but scantily supplied; I have urged the contractors on this head, but have received nothing but fair promises, until my patience is entirely exhausted, and I have directed Mr. Oliver to supply. A man from Put-in-bay left here this morning. He informs me the detachment I sent on had not been able to cross, but are waiting at the point of the peninsula, and will cross as soon as possible; I have ordered Major Crooks with some militia to cross; which will make the force there as follows: sailors twenty two, Atkins' command forty-two, all now there; [Daniel] McFarland with twenty-eight regulars on the march, and Crooks with Captain Howel's company, say forty, which is one hundred and thirty-two, and I have one company at the fort at Portage. I fear the provisions at the island are not sufficient to support them until the ice will break up to afford water transportation to them; and at Portage they depend on this place for flour, which is scarce; they have, however, meat enough here. Thus, you see, as before I observed

to you, we have been between hawk and buzzard—the contractor and commissary. I am informed the detachment that returned to Detroit from the Thames did not succeed in getting the quantity of provision expected. I am also informed, by some officers from Buffalo, that the British were preparing a secret expedition; their destination unknown. I am happy to inform you every exertion has been made at Detroit, Sandwich, and Malden to defend those places to the last extremity and the commanding officer, since General Cass left there, deserves great credit. Neither of those places will be given up without, some fighting; the officers commanding each are in high spirits, and have great confidence in their ability to defend their posts. Some artillery officers have passed on to Detroit, and I am of opinion that some active regular officers are wanting there, as many have left it. The militia have been very much reduced there, as you will see. I must inform you I have lost a number of my militia, out of the few I had here. I buried at this place fifteen or sixteen, which is as great a proportion as they have lost at Detroit; and one other small part of a company has buried seven. I have never mentioned this part of the subject before, as I thought it best to keep it close. I am informed some Canadians attempted to cross from Long Point to Put-in-bay, but found the ice insufficient and returned; their object not known. I assure you I have and will continue to use every exertion for the good of the service; I have had the arms, etc. that the Kentuckians threw away at Portage collected, and the principal part brought to this place, and the cattle and some horses have been taken and converted to public use. There is plenty of ammunition at Fort Meigs, but it is scarce on this line. I sent for powder to Meigs, but our means of transportation was such that we only received two hundred pounds half cannon; but I am informed there is a large quantity on board the vessels fixed and unfixed, and six thousand five hundred stand of arms, some field carriages, etc. which I have ordered to be brought over as soon as the ice will permit; the roads are so very bad it has been impracticable. I am well satisfied I have not been ordered to Detroit, and particularly as General Cass appeared to be opposed to it; and I have had an immense trouble in regulating my different posts, and quieting the murmurs of my militia. They are very good, but not such as I

used to take the field with when we were first acquainted in the former Indian wars. I have ordered to be transmitted to the secretary of War the sentence of two general court martials, as I (by the articles of war) am authorized to approve of the sentence, and have it carried into effect. If those powers are delegated to you, sir, please to inform me by the bearer. Mr. Sallion, who has been stationed at Fort Meigs in the commissary's line, can give you much information on many points that I cannot at present. General Cass, by my request, ordered Colonel Paul to inspect the militia at this Post, Portage, Meigs, Findlay, Upper Sandusky, and McArthur, and Captain Moore on the other line, which is completed by this time.

I have the honor to be, with great respect and esteem, your most obedient and humble servant.

JOHN S. GANO

His Excellency WILLIAM H. HARRISON

P. S. You will see a great diminution of my force, many being sick and absent, and I having discharged two companies by your order to escort the prisoners, etc. My first report was two thousand one hundred and thirty-four, and the amount ordered to Detroit was near six hundred. You see now the number of effectives there are amazingly reduced.

SHELBY TO HARRISON

FRANKFORT January 25th 1814

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book A" 174

DEAR SIR

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt last evening of your favour of the 17th inst., [see above] requiring me to order to Newport one Lieutenant, 1 Ensign and sixty-five non-Commissioned Officers & privates to guard the Arsenal & prisoners of war at that place.

In consequence of which I have ordered Major General Boswell commanding the division most contiguous to that point to detach immediately from his command the force you require, and order them to their post of destination without the least possible loss of time.

As you have not stated for what length of time their services would be required I have ordered them out for three months

from the time they arrive at Newport unless sooner discharged by your Orders, if therefore it should be necessary to relieve this detachment at the expiration of their time of service you will be so good as to apprise me in time that it may be effected in due season.

Permit me to congratulate you on your safe arrival to your family who I hope you found in good health—I am sure you must want rest and trust the cause of your Country will now afford you the opportunity to enjoy it at your own fireside—I will take this occasion too to thank you for the loan of your sorrel horse, and to inform you that I left him in the care of General Gano (as you requested) at lower Sandusky he promised me to take special care of it and let you know that he had him in charge.

With sincere regard & esteem
I remain
Dear Sir
Your most obt. servt.

ISAAC SHELBY

Genl. HARRISON

GANO TO HARRISON

LOWER SANDUSKY, January 27, 1814

Am. Sta. Pa. Mil. Aff. I, 657

DEAR GENERAL:

Captain Payne has called on me to sanction his drawing funds for his department; I have thought proper to refer him to you; I am informed a good supply of corn may be had near a mill forty miles from this. Will it not be advisable to have three or four hundred of meal forwarded on to the army? The flour the contractor's agent promised, should have been here ten days ago, but has not arrived, and owing to the disappointment we are reduced in that article at this post to nineteen barrels Senecca, seventeen Portage. I sent four barrels there yesterday; at Meigs they are very short, at Winchester they have two or three hundred barrels, but short of meat. I must confess I have been completely deceived and disappointed by them, they having stated it was on the road. I gave them notice 24th December, to have three months' rations at different posts for the number of men specified. Captain Payne knows the situation; you will please give him such

directions as you think proper, on this subject; he certainly exerted himself much to my satisfaction, in forwarding provisions and clothing to Detroit; you know him. If he could get leave to settle his accounts it may be best. Excuse this suggestion. If you had not arrived in your district, I was determined to have sent in every direction and purchased provisions at all events for the troops in service, and those that were to relieve them, but I am happy the arrangement has fallen into your hands, for I think I would hang half of the quartermasters and all the contractors, if I was to remain in service much longer; and I am astonished how you have managed with them to effect the objects you have, for there appears no system or regularity with any of them. I have ordered one company more to this place from Findlay, and a sergeant, two corporals, and twelve men from Upper Sandusky to that post, which is all the force I can order here from this and the centre line. This day's report is eighty sick, at Meigs. I am happy to inform you the troops at Detroit are recovering, for you see we can afford them but little aid. If a successful attempt is made at Put-in bay, (which God forbid, and I think impossible,) we may have a visit from them. We will endeavor to give a good account, for my men are in high spirits, and I have added much to the strength of this place; we are not well supplied with ammunition, but have sent for some from the shipping and Franklinton.

I am, with great respect, your humble servant.

JOHN S. GANO

M. ELLIOTT TO GLEGG

BEACH 31st January 1814

Mich. Hist. and Pio. Soc. Pa. XV, 484

SIR,

The Indian Messengers I had sent to the Westward arrived to day at 12 o'clock Just as I received your letter.

They brought a Speech on Wampum from their Brethern expressing their joy at our success and their anxious wishes for our speedy arrival among them, telling their Father that they have only taken the Big Knife by his fingers end and have spoken to them from the lip outwards and that they are always ready to obey their Father's order so soon as given. That they are more afraid of the French inhabitants who are

all armed, than of the American Troops, because if they hear of their having received messages from this place they will seize their wives & children and put them in confinement.

The messengers report that the inhabitants have made the Indians believe that the Americans had cleared all before them to Quebec & that the small remnant was shut up in Quebec living on dogs & horses.

The Americans they suppose are in expectation of a reinforcement at Detroit as a vast number of Hogs & Cattle are daily killed & the store kept full. The Detroit with about a hundred Shot Holes on her is at Amherstburg and all the other vessels at Presquisle. This we will be more certain of when Captain Caldwell arrives. Our Friends to the westward make a demand of arms & ammunition and wish us to send about forty men loaded with the articles. Arms also & Gunpowder are wanted for the people here of the first I secured some from Kingston & you can supply the latter. The Stores here will otherwise answer all the demands.

The Sakies & Foxes as they intend to go to their own country are arriving at Detroit, will take their Families with them, but as there are not many of them the Expence will not be considerable. The other Tribes leave their families here. six hundred warriors if wanted are ready to cooperate with the Troops & only wait the call.

Upon this point the Lieut Genls further directions are requested—

Altho' desirous of manifesting in the name of H. R. H. the Prince Regent, his desire to maintain a perfectly good understanding with the Western Indians & to protect them from the encroachments of the U. S. upon their territory I am disposed to relinquish that wish provided Lt. Genl. Drummond is satisfied that the reasons alleged are Just & ought to be attended to—

I had almost forgot to mention that I received a few days ago a letter on the Subject of the projected Expedition from His Honor Lieutenant General Drummond requiring my opinion about employing only the Delawares & Munseys, and also his desire that no useless consumer of provisions should be allowed to go along. I certainly am of his & General Riall's opinion as to the last but I stated to him on the subject of the Munseys & Delawares, that it appeared to me impolitic, &

might occasion jealousies, & I proposed a selection from all the Tribes, amounting to the number that might be required, as a step that I was sure would give general satisfaction,

I am now recruiting slowly & hope in a few days to be able to undertake any service General Riall may wish to be performed.

I have the honor to be Sir

Your obedient Humble Servant

M. ELLIOTT *S. I. A.*

To Capt. J. B. GLEGG

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT Feby. 5th 1814

Har. Pa. 97

SIR:

Brig. General Howard's destination to Detroit has been suspended. The state of his health is represented as bad. [he died Sept. 18] This may account for your not having heard from him. I inclose the substance of Lt. Worley's information.

Will it not be well to bring off the guns from the ships at Put-in-bay? Were the vessels completely dismantled, they would form a small object for the enterprise of the enemy.

The alarms for the safety of Erie and the shipping there, which followed the disasters on the Niagara brought together a host of 3000 volunteers and militia. If the passage of the Lake be practicable to the enemy why not to us also? 1000 of the Volunteers may cross over to long-point and break up that establishment. Orders to this effect have been given.

Major General HARRISON

GANO TO HARRISON

LOWER SANDUSKY, February, 10, 1814

Am. Sta. Pa. Mil. Af. I, 657

DEAR GENERAL:

The day before yesterday I returned from Fort Meigs, after making some necessary arrangements there. I have one additional company of men at Portage, who have orders to cross, as soon as the ice will admit, which will fill the complement required. They marched from Fort Findlay; the man who

floated off on a cake of ice is safe. It wafted him to the ice fast to the island a singular escape. I believe the vessel safe, but will be ready to afford all the protection in my power. I have been obliged to discharge some men who had certificates of having served a month last summer a year. The men are all anxious to be relieved; they have had a busy tour, and I would be glad to have those at the island relieved before, or by the time their term of service expires; and if those on this line could be mustered at Upper Sandusky, if you approve can deposite their arms there, and those of Detroit and Meigs could be mustered at Winchester or St. Mary's. I will await your orders on this subject, and if I remain alone will keep this post until relieved or ordered away, though I feel anxious to see my family, and particularly on account of the indisposition of a part of it.

I have ordered the arms from this to Franklinton that want repair, and if you advise tents and camp kettles, axes, etc., could be sent in by return wagons. There has been no possible way of removing the six or seven thousand stand of arms, etc, etc, from the vessels. My brigade major has not been able to return, and I think there has been a kind interposition of Providence in the protection of the vessels. This winter, provision has been extremely scanty; we have been reduced to half a barrel flour here, but I ordered from Seneca three barrels, and purchased or borrowed two or three for the company. At Portage, and at Fort Meigs, they were four days without, though twenty-four barrels arrived there the night before I left there, and more expected. Mr. Oliver informs me, supplies will shortly be on to this place; you must have received the news from Detroit as late as this, therefore I will not communicate. Please present my compliments to your good lady and family, and believe me to be, with much esteem.

Your most obedient humble servant

JOHN S. GANO

To His Excellency HARRISON

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT Feby 10th 1814

Har. Pa. 98

SIR

Your letter of Dec 24th addressed to the Department of

State has been referred to this Department and conformably to your offer, I have to request you to forward charges with such evidence as you may possess, relative to the mal-conduct of John Sibley, Indian agent at Natchiteches.

WM. H. HARRISON

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE, 17th Feb. 1814

Har. Pa. 281, 282

SIR:

I herewith inclose to you an annual return of the militia of this Territory, the aggregate of which including officers, commissioned and non-commissioned and rank and file, will amount to 5017. This number I thought sufficient to form three divisions six brigades and twelve regiments. The number as well as the large extent of the Territory and dispersed situation of the militia would justify it and the Territory is increasing very fast in population. A consideration of the foregoing circumstances, together with the more practical mode of discipline has induced me to the formation of the militia in the manner mentioned.

I have not yet completed my selection of General officers, but shall make out a list and transmit to you in a few weeks, to be commissioned by the President. [The return was not found]

I have the honor to be with much respect

Your obt. and Humble Servant.

TH. POSEY

Gen. JOHN ARMSTRONG *Sect. of War*

P. S. The Adjutant General informs me he has inclosed the annual return of the militia a few days since.

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT March 2nd 1814

Har. Pa. 99

SIR

I had the honor of receiving your letter of the 13th ult. As a general principle it cannot be doubted but that the Government has a right to dispose of the Officers of the Army as they may think best for the public interest because (among other reasons) they alone can be acquainted with all the demands made

upon them by that interest. The utmost therefore that either reason or economy requires of them is to advertise the officer commanding a District of the abstractions which public policy makes necessary from his command. The order in question was a notice of "this sort" and of course strictly an observance of military usage. Had it been sent through you to General Howard, the objects of Government might have been hazarded by the delay which would have necessarily attended this mode of transmission. The fact out of which it grew is that General Flournoy had sought a recall from New Orleans and that in casting about for a successor General Howard was selected.

Major General HARRISON

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT March 3rd 1814

Har. Pa. 100

SIR:

Governor Cass and some of the members of Congress from the State of Ohio have suggested as part of the arrangement to be made with the Indian tribes at the ensuing treaty—a commutation of land: for instance, that the Wyandots, Delawares and Shawonese should on relinquishment of their former settlements and removal to the country between the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, be established therein. The policy of separation would, in theory as well as practice, be useful. So long as their settlements and ours actually touch each other collisions are to be feared. The policy also of keeping our own line of settlements unbroken, is obviously sound. How far the Indians may be disposed to meet us on these grounds is questionable. On this point make the necessary inquiries and communicate the result in time to shape the instructions which it may be proper to give on the subject.

Your letter stating that you had deputed Mr. [John] Johnston to hold a preliminary meeting with the Indians has been received.

Major Genl. HARRISON

ELLIOTT TO STEWART

DELAWARE March 4th, 1814

SIR,

I have this day had a meeting with the Indians, on the sub-

ject of carrying a quantity of ammunition to their friends within the American Territory. The result is that they refuse to proceed with the ammunition on the ground that our regular troops do not advance further than the Settlements on the River Thames, and of course would be of no use in protecting their friends, in the enemies country. The Americans might hear of these supplies being sent to the Indians & the consequence would be fatal, perhaps to their whole Tribes. They would therefore rather suffer for want of ammunition, than endanger themselves or their families.

I am &c.

M. ELLIOTT

To Col. ALEXANDER STEWART

HOLMES TO BUTLER

FORT COVINGTON, March 10th, 1814

Historical Register IV, 4-9

SIR,

I have the honor to submit in writing, that the expedition sent under my command against the enemy's posts by your special orders of the 21st ultimo, had the good fortune on the 4th instant to meet and subdue a force double its own, fresh from the barracks, and led by a distinguished officer.

I had been compelled to leave the artillery, by the invincible difficulties of the route from Point au Plait to the Round O. No wheel carriage of any kind had ever attempted it before, and none will ever pass it until the brush and fallen timber are cut away, and the swamp causewayed or drained. After joining captain [William] Gill, I began the march for Fort Talbot, but was soon convinced of its being impossible to reach the post, in time to secure any force which might be there or adjacent. This conviction, united with the information that the enemy had a force at Delaware upon the Thames, that I should be expected at Fort Talbot, and consequently that a previous descent upon Delaware might deceive the foe, and lead him to expose me some point in defending others he might think menaced, and coupled with the possibility that hearing of captain Gill's march to the Round O, by M'Gregor's militia, whom he had pursued, a detachment had descended the Thames to intercept him, determined me to exercise the

discretion allowed by the order, and to strike at once upon the river.

On the 3d instant, when only fifteen miles from Delaware, we received intelligence that the enemy had left Delaware with the intention of descending the river, and that we should probably meet him in one hour; that his force consisted of a light company from the Royal Scots, mustering for duty 120 men; a light company from the 89th regiment of foot (efficiency not known); Caldwell's Indian and M'Gregor's militia: amounting all to about 300 men. My command originally had not exceeded 180 rank and file. Hunger, cold, and fatigue had brought on disease, and though none died, all were exceedingly depressed, and sixteen had been ordered home as unable to continue the march. I resolved therefore to avoid the conflict on equal grounds, and immediately retreated five miles for the sake of a good position, on the western bank of the Twenty Mile Creek, leaving Captain Gill with twenty rangers to cover the rear, and to watch the enemy's motions. We had encamped but a few minutes, when captain Gill joined, after exchanging shots with the enemy's advance, in vainly attempting to reconnoitre his force. The Twenty Mile Creek runs from north to south, through a deep and wide ravine, and of course, is flanked east and west by lofty heights. My camp was formed upon the western heights. The enemy's upon the opposite. During the night of the 3d all was quiet. At sun-rise on the 4th, the enemy appeared thinly upon the opposite hights, fired upon us without effect, and vanished. After waiting some time for their re-appearance lieutenant [John] Knox of the rangers was sent to reconnoitre. On his return, he reported that the enemy had retreated with the utmost precipitation, leaving his baggage scattered upon the road, and that his trail and fires made him out not more than seventy men. Mortified at the supposition of having retrograded from this diminutive force, I instantly commenced the pursuit, with the design of attacking Delaware before the opening of another day. We had not however proceeded beyond five miles, when captain [Stephen] Lee, commanding the advance, discovered the enemy in considerable force, arranging himself for battle. The symptons of fear and flight were now easily traced to the purpose of seducing me from the heights, and so far the plan succeeded. But the enemy failed

to improve the advantage. If he had thrown his chief force across the ravine above the road, and occupied our camp when relinquished, thus obstructing my communication to the rear, I should have been driven upon Delaware against a superior force, since found to be stationed, or forced to take the wilderness for Fort Talbot, without forage or provisions. Heaven averted this calamity. We soon regained the position at Twenty Mile Creek, and though the rangers were greatly disheartened by the retreat, and to a man insisted upon not fighting the enemy, we decided an exhibit to that spot the scene of death or victory.

I was induced to adopt the order of the hollow square, to prevent the necessity of evolution, which I knew all the troops were incompetent to perform in action. The detachments of the 24th and 28th infantry occupied the brow of the heights. The detachment from the garrison of Detroit formed the north front of the square, the rangers the west, and the militia the south. Our houses and baggage stood in the centre. The enemy threw his militia and Indians across the ravine above the road, and commenced the action with savage yells and bugles sounding from the north, west, and south. His regulars at the same time charged down the road from the opposite heights, crossed the bridge, and charged up the heights we occupied within twenty steps of the American line, and against the most destructive fire. But his front section was shot to pieces. Those who followed were much thinned and wounded. His officers were soon cut down, and his antagonists continued to evince a degree of animation that be-spoke at once their boldness and security. He therefore abandoned the charge, and took cover in the woods at diffused order, between fifteen, twenty, and thirty paces of our line, and placed all hope upon his ammunition.

Our regulars, being uncovered, were ordered to kneel that the brow of the heights might partly screen them from the enemy's view. The firing increased on both sides with great vivacity. But the crisis was over. I knew the enemy dared not uncover, and of course no second charge would be attempted. On the north, west, and south front the firing had been sustained with much coolness, and with considerable loss to the foe. Our troops on those fronts being protected by logs, hastily thrown together, and the enemy not charging

both the rifle and the musket were aimed at leisure, perhaps always told. The enemy at last became persuaded that Providence had sealed the fortune of the day. His cover on the east front was insufficient; for as he had charged in column of sections, and therefore, when dispersing on either side of the road, was unable to extend his flanks and as our regulars presented an extended front from the beginning, it is evident that a common sized tree could not protect even one man, much less the squads that often stood and breathed their last together; and yet upon his regulars the enemy relied for victory. In concert therefore, and favored by the shades of twilight, he commenced a general retreat after one hour's close and gallant conflict.

I did not pursue, for the following reasons. 1. We had triumphed against numbers and discipline, and were therefore under no obligation of honour to incur additional hazard. 2. In these requisites (numbers and discipline) the enemy were still superior, and the night would have insured success to an ambuscade. 3. The enemy's bugle sounded the close upon the opposite heights. If then we had pursued, we must have passed over to him as he did to us, because the creek could be passed on horseback at no other point, and the troops being fatigued and frost bitten, and their shoes cut to pieces by the frozen ground, it was not possible to pursue on foot. It follows, that the attempt to pursue would have given the enemy the same advantage that produced the defeat.

Our loss in killed and wounded amounted to a non-commissioned officer and six privates; but the blood of between 80 and 90 brave Englishmen, and among the 4 officers, avenged their fall. The commander, captain Barden of the 89th, is supposed to have been killed at an early stage of the contest. The whole American force in action consisted of one hundred and fifty rank and file, of whom seventy were militia, including the rangers. The enemy's regulars alone were from one hundred and fifty to one hundred and eighty strong, and his militia and Indians fought upon three fronts of our square.

I am much indebted to all my regular officers, and trust their names will be mentioned to the army and to the war department. Without intending a discrimination it must be acknowledged that the exertions of lieutenant [John C.] Kouns and [William] Henry of the 28th and [Hezekiah] Jack-

son and [John C.] Potter of the 24th were most conspicuous, because fortune had opposed them to the main strength of the foe. Captain Lee of the Michigan dragoons was of great assistance before the action at the head of the advance and spies, and my warmest thanks are due to acting sailing-master Darling of the United States schooner Somers, who had volunteered to command the artillery. Ensign Heard of the 28th, acting as volunteer adjutant, merits my acknowledgments, and especially for his zeal in defending my opinion against a final retreat, when others permitted their hopes to sink beneath the pressure of the moment.

The enemy's wounded and prisoners were treated with the utmost humanity. Though some of our men were marching in their stocking feet, they were not permitted to take a shoe even from the dead.

I have the honor, to be with perfect respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) A. H. HOLMES
Captain 24th Infantry

Lieutenant-Colonel [Robert] BUTLER, *commanding the Territory of Michigan and its dependencies*

HARRISON TO SECRETARY OF WAR

H. Q. Cincinnati, March 22nd, 1814

McAfee, *The Late War, 43-47*

SIR,

The tribes of Indians upon this frontier and east of the Mississippi, with whom the U. S. have been connected by treaty, are the Wyandots, Delawares, Shawanoese, Miamies, Potawatamies, Ottawas, Chippewas, Piankasshaws, Kaskaskias, and Sacs. All but the two last were in the confenderacy, which carried on the former Indian war against the United States, that was terminated by the peace of Greenville. The Kaskaskias were parties to the treaty, but they had not been in the war. The Wyandots are admitted by the others to be the leading tribe. They hold the grand calumet, which unites them and kindles the council fire. This tribe is nearly equally divided between the Crane at Sandusky, who is the grand Sachem of the nation, and Wal-in-the-Water at Brownstown, near Detroit. They claim the lands, bounded by the settlements of this state, southwardly and eastwardly; and by lake

Erie, the Miami river, and the claim of the Shawanoese upon the Auglaize, a branch of the latter. They also claim the lands they live on near Detroit, but I am ignorant to what extent.

The Wyandots of Sandusky have adhered to us through the war. Their chief, the Crane, is a venerable, intelligent, and upright man. Within the tract of land claimed by the Wyandots a number of Senecas are settled. They broke off from their own tribe six or eight years ago, but receive a part of the annuity granted that tribe by the U. States, by sending a deputation for it to Buffaloe. The claim of the Wyandots to the lands they occupy, is not disputed, that I know of by any other tribe. Their residence on it however, is not of long standing, and the country was certainly once the property of the Miamies.

Passing westwardly from the Wyandots, we meet with the Shawonese settlement at Stony creek, a branch of the big Miami, and at Wapockaunata on the Auglaize. These settlements were made immediately after the treaty of Greenville, and with the consent of the Miamies, whom I consider the real owners of those lands. The chiefs of this band of Shawanoese, Blackhoof, Wolf, and Lewis, are attached to us from principle as well as interest—they are honest men.

The Miamies have their principal settlements at the forks of the Wabash, thirty miles from fort Wayne; and at Mississineway, thirty miles lower down. A band of them under the name of weas, have resided on the Wabash sixty miles above Vincennes; and another under the Turtle on Eel river, a branch of the Wabash, twenty miles northwest of fort Wayne. By an artifice of the Little Turtle these three bands were passed on general Wayne as distinct tribes, and an annuity was granted to each. The Eel river and Weas however to this day call themselves Miamies, and are recognized as such by the Mississineway band. The Miamies, Maumees, or Tewicktovies, are the undoubted proprietors of all that beautiful country which is watered by the Wabash and its branches; and there is as little doubt, that their claim extended at least as far east as the Scioto. They have no tradition of removing from any other quarter of the country; where as all the neighboring tribes, the Piankishaws, excepted, who are a branch of the Miamies, are either intruders upon them, or have been

permitted to settle in their country. The Wyandots emigrated first from lake Ontario, and subsequently from lake Huron—the Delawares, from Pennsylvania and Maryland—the Shawanoese from Georgia—the Kickapoos and Potawatamies from the country between lake Michigan and the Mississippi—and the Ottawas and Chipewas from the penninsula formed by the lakes Michigan, Huron, and St. Clair, and the streight connecting the latter with Erie. The claims of the Miamies were bounded on the north and west by those of the Illinois confederacy, consisting originally of five tribes, called Kaskaskias, Cahokias, Peorians, Michiganians, and Temarois, speaking the Miami language, and no doubt branches of that nation.

When I was first appointed governor of Indiana Territory, these once powerful tribes were reduced to about thirty warriors, of whom twenty-five were Kaskaskias, four Peorians, and a single Michiganian. There was an individual lately alive at St. Louis, who saw the enumeration made of them by the Jesuits in the year 1745, making the number of warriors four thousand. A furious war between them and the Sacs and Kickapoos, reduced them to that miserable remnant, which had taken refuge amongst the white people of the towns of Kaskaskia and St. Genevieve. The Kickapoos had fixed their principal village at Peoria, upon the south bank of the Illinois river, whilst the Sacs remained masters of the country to the north.

During the war of our revolution, the Miamies had invited the Kickapoos into their country to assist them against the whites, and a considerable village was formed by that tribe on the Vermillion river near its junction with the Wabash. After the treaty of Greenville, the Delawares had with the approbation of the Miamies, removed from the mouth of the Auglaize to the head waters of White river, a large branch of the Wabash and the Potawatamies without their consent had formed two villages upon the latter river, one at Tippecanoe, and the other at Chippoy twenty-five miles below.

The Piankishaws lived in the neighbourhood of Vincennes, which was their ancient village, and claimed the lands to the mouth of the Wabash, and to the north and west as far as the Kaskaskians claimed. Such was the situation of the tribes, when I received the instructions of President Jefferson shortly

after his first election, to make efforts for extinguishing the Indian claims upon the Ohio, below the mouth of the Kentucky river, and to such other tracts as were necessary to connect and consolidate our settlements. It was at once determined, that the community of interests in the lands amongst the Indian tribes, which seemed to be recognized by the treaty of Greenville, should be objected to; and that each individual tribe should be protected in every claim that should appear to be founded in reason and justice. But it was also determined, that as a measure of policy and liberallty, such tribes as lived upon any tract of land which it would be desirable to purchase, should receive a portion of the compensation, although the title might be exclusively in another tribe. Upon this principle the Delawares, Shawanoese, Potawatamies, and Kickapoos were admitted as parties to several of the treaties. Care was taken however, to place the title to such tracts as it might be desirable to purchase hereafter, upon a footing that would facilitate the procuring of them, by getting the tribes who had no claim themselves, and who might probably interfere, to recognize the titles of those who were ascertained to possess them.

This was particularly the case with regard to the lands watered by the Wabash, which were declared to be the property of the Miamies, with the exception of the tract occupied by the Delawares on White river, which was to be considered the joint property of them and the Miamies. This arrangement was very much disliked by Tecumseh, and the banditti that he had assembled at Tippecanoe. He complained loudly, as well of the sales that had been made, as of the principle of considering a particular tribe as the exclusive proprietors of any part of the country, which he said the Great Spirit had given to all his red children. Besides the disaffected amongst the neighboring tribes, he had brought together a considerable number of Winebagoes and Folsovoins from the neighborhood of Green Bay, Sacs from the Mississippi, and some Ottawas and Chipewas from Abercrosh on Lake Michigan. These people were better pleased with the climate and country of the Wabash, than with that they had left.

The Miamies, resisted the pretensions of Tecumseh and his followers for some time, but a system of terror was adopted, and the young men were seduced by eternally placing before

them a picture of labor, and restriction as to hunting, to which the system adopted inevitably would lead. The Potawatamies and other tribes inhabiting the Illinois river and south of lake Michigan, had been for a long time approaching gradually towards the Wabash. Their country, which was never abundantly stocked with game, was almost exhausted of it. The fertile regions of the Wabash still afforded it. It was represented, that the progressive settlements of the whites upon the that river would soon deprive them of their only resource and indeed would force the Indians of that river upon them, who were already half starved.

It is a fact, that for many years the current of emigration, as to the tribes east of the Mississippi, has been from north to south. This is owing to two causes; the diminution of those animals from which the Indians procure their support; and the pressure of the two great tribes, the Chippewas and Sioux to the north and west. So long ago as the treaty of Greenville, the Potawatamies gave notice to the Miamies, that they intended to settle upon the Wabash. They made no pretensions to the country, and their only excuse for the intended aggression, was that "they were tired of eating fish, and wanted meat." It has been already observed that the Sacs had extended themselves to the Illinois river, and that the settlement of the Kickapoos at the Peorias was of modern date. Previously to the commencement of the present war, a considerable number had joined their brethren upon the Wabash. The Tawas from the Des Moins river have twice made attempts to get a footing here.

From these facts it will be seen, that it will be nearly impossible to get the Indians south of the Wabash to go beyond the Illinois river. The subject of providing an outlet to such of the tribes as it might be desirable to remove, has been under consideration for many years. There is but one. It was long since discovered by the Indians themselves, and but for the humane policy which has been pursued by our government, the Delawares, Kickapoos and Shawanoese would long since have been out of our way. The country claimed by the Osages abounds with everything that is desirable to a savage. The Indians of the tribes above mentioned have occasionally intruded upon them—a war was the consequence, which would soon have given a sufficient opening for emigration. But our

government interfered and obliged the hostile tribes to make peace.

I was afterward instructed to endeavour to get the Delawares to join that part of their tribe, which is settled on the west side of the Mississippi near Cape Girardeau. The attempt was unsuccessful at the time. I have no doubt however, that they could be prevailed on to move; but it ought not in my opinion to be attempted in a general council of the tribes.

The question of the title to the lands south of the Wabash has been thoroughly examined: every opportunity was afforded to Tecumseh and his party to exhibit their pretensions, and they were found to rest upon no other basis, than that of their being the common property of all the Indians. The Potawatamies and Kickapoos have unequivocally acknowledged the Miami and Delaware title. The latter as I before observed can I think be induced to remove. It may take a year or eighteen months to effect it. The Miamies will not be in our way. They are a poor, miserable, drunken set, diminishing every year. Becoming too lazy to hunt, they feel the advantage of their annuity. The fear of the other Indians has alone prevented them from selling their whole claim to the United States; and as soon as there is peace, or the British can no longer intrigue, they will sell. I know what inducements can be held out to the Wyandots to remove; they were not formerly under my superintendence, but I am persuaded that a general council would not be the place to attempt it.

I have the honor, &c. &c.

WM. H. HARRISON

CLAUS TO LORING

YORK 28th March 1814

Mich. Hist. and Pion. Soc. Pub. XV, 525

SIR

I received a letter yesterday from Colonel [Matthew] Elliott of the 25th Instant. I herewith transmit for the information of His Honor Lieut General Drummond. I have directed Colonel Elliott to send off the runners immediately to Marpock & the Potawatamies.

Col. Elliott ought to know the strength of the Nations that is said to have joined the Enemy, but I am at a loss to know

where they can have such a force. I know the Hurons are very weak & most of the Shawanese moved some years ago to the West of the Mississippi, the Delawares whose place of residence is on the Eel River near the head of the Wabashe are the strongest Nation, but the distance is so great that I should doubt very much their coming forward with the enemy. The want of Wampum is very great as no business can be done with Indians without it, a Requisition was send down more than twelve months ago for that article, but none was received.

I also put under cover a letter from Major Givins of the 23d instant addressed to me on the subject of Rations being issued to the families of officers of the Indian Department. I beg leave to submit the same to His Honor the president hoping that the same indulgence may be granted to the Indian Department that this order gives to the Staff & Army in the Country.

I have the honor to be Sir

Your most obedient humble Servant.

W. CLAUS, *D. S. G.*

To Capt. ROBERT R. LORING

POSEY CONVENING ASSEMBLY

April 4, 1814

Western Sun, Apr. 16, 1814

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, congress has passed an act to establish the mode of laying off the territory of Indiana into districts for the election of its members of the legislative council;

Now be it known to all concerned that I, Thomas Posey, governor and commander in chief in and over the Indiana territory, by virtue of the above recited act, do issue this my proclamation, requiring that the members of the house of representatives of said territory do convene at Corydon, the seat of government, on Wednesday, the first day of June ensuing, then and there to take up the subject of the aforesaid act, agreeable to the intent and meaning thereof.

Given under my hand and seal at the town of Jeffersonville, this 4th day of April, in the year of our Lord, 1814.

TH: POSEY

JOHN JOHNSTON TO HUFFMAN

PIQUA, OHIO April 12, 1814

Har. Pa. 285, 286

DEAR SIR:

Agreeably to my promise made to you when last at this place, I now communicate the result of my enquiries after your chiled. I am sorry indeed that the prospect of getting him is so remote, had he remained in the custody of the Indians I would have had the happiness of shortly restoring him to you. [See Mar. 24 and Apr. 1, 1813, above]

The following is a true copy of a certificate which I yesterday received from Saint Joseph of Lake Michigan relative to my inquiries:

> We do hereby certify that we are known to a delivery made unto Captain Charles Roberts in the service of his Britance Majesty commanding at the Island of Mickelimackinac by Joseph Bailly a British Trader from the River Saint Joseph of a Prisoner Boy named Peter, (the surname unknown to us), about six years old, fair complexion, and sandy hair taken at the River Ohio, by Saw Omock or the yellow Beaver in the month of march 1813.
>
> (signed) JOHN W. BURNETTE
> (signed) ANTONE QUITMOT

dated mouth of the River SAINT JOSEPH March 20, 1814

Thus you see now it is out of my power to take any farther step for the recovery of your child he being now in the possession of the British, it is possible that Capt. Roberts motive in taking the child was a good one, and that he may intend to have him restored to his people.

I have thought that the best course to pursue under existing circumstances as Mackinac will probably be abandoned by the English this spring would be for you to apply to M. [Jonathan] Jennings the delegate from your Territory, or to Governor Posey, deliver this letter, and ask them to apply to the secretary of War, forwarding this letter at the same time to him, and procure the interference of the Government in your behalf, the proper course in my opinion would be to instruct the commanding general near the Head of Lake Ontario or on the Niagara Strait to apply to the British General com-

manding in that quarter, for the release of your son. Capt. Roberts will be somewhere in that country you ought to forward an accurate description of your son and this letter should accompany the same to the War office. I have no doubt small as the case is but the head of the War Department will interest himself for you. The presumption is if Capt. Roberts is ordered to evacuate the Fort at Mackinac he will take the boy down with him.

Wishing that you may soon have the happiness of beholding your child again I remain with much respect. [See Ketcham's narrative end of 1812 above]

Your most Ob. Servant

JOHN JOHNSTON, *Indian Agent*

Mr. BENJAMIN HUFFMAN near Charleston Clarke County Indiana Territory

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT April 21st. 1814

Har. Pa. 101, 102

SIR:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 30th ult. and 10th inst. [Not found] Of the *time* and *place* of holding the treaty, you will yourself decide—taking as your guides, the economy in the one case that may be found in delaying it until green forage will do away [with] the necessity for dry and the public safety as well as convenience in the other of holding it without the limits, but not remote from our own settlements. The President approves your ideas of not mingling with the question of peace any proposals for either buying or exchanging lands.

P. S. Capt. [John] O'Fallon may remain with you as your aid. The new law on this subject permits captains to be taken as the aids of Major Generals—Lieuts. of Brigadiers.

Major General HARRISON

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT April 22d, 1814

Har. Pa. 102, 104

SIR:

Mr. [B. G.] Orr, the contractor, has presented abstracts

to a considerable amount, on which monies have been advanced to him on account. Circumstances however induce a belief that a considerable quantity of the provision represented by these abstracts have been purchased by agents of your appointment and with public money advanced to them here. It is important that the fact in its whole extent and in its details should be ascertained and reported to this Department with as little delay as possible. Permit me to invite your attention to this subject and to hope from it the means of judging how far we have been and shall hereafter be safe in making advances to this contractor. Part of the information must come from Detroit.

Major Genl. HARRISON

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT April 23d 1814

Har. Pa. 103

SIR:

I have the honor to inclose a letter from John Mason Esq. Comd. Genl. of Prisoners announcing the President's intention of releasing on parole the British Prisoners, hostages in Kentucky, Pittsburg &c. The object of this note is to ask you to assign some discreet officer of our army to accompany them on their march to the frontier; to indicate the route most convenient for them and for us, and the place at which they may be passed over to a post of the enemy. Can they go from Erie? or must they go to Niagara? The form of the parole to be signed by them is inclosed. The prisoners at Pittsburg will be retained until those coming from Kentucky will arrive there (Pittsburg). They will then go on together.

Genl. HARRISON

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT April 25th 1814

Har. Pa. 105

SIR:

I have the honor to inclose the copy of an order [not found] sent directly to Detroit for the purpose of saving time in the arrangements necessary to its execution. I am &c. &c.

Major Genl. HARRISON

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT April 29th 1814

Har. Pa. 106

SIR:

There are reasons for discontinuing all purchases made by commissaries. You will therefore be pleased to give your orders accordingly and direct supplies to be made by the contractor. The commissaries will send in their accounts for purchases made by them and accompany them by the necessary vouchers. If any abstracts for provisions of their procuring have been put into the hands of Mr. [B. G.] Orr, or of any Deputy of his, the amount will be reported.

Major Genl. HARRISON

HARRISON TO SHELBY

Head Quarters CINCINNATTI May 2d 1814

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book B" 49

DEAR SIR

The term of service for which the militia at Newport were called out being about to expire, I have to request of your Excellency to have detailed from the militia of your State, one Captain, one first Lieutenant one Second Lieutenant one third Lieutenant one Ensign five Sergeants, six Corporals, two musicians and ninety privates to relieve those now serving at New Port as a guard to the British Prisoners.

As the engagements of those now in service will expire about the 12 or 15 inst., it is important that the new detachment should be pushed on as soon as possible.

Until this day I had supposed that I had written to you before on this subject but upon examining my papers I find that I was mistaken

I am Dear Sir with great truth your devoted friend

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON

His Excellency ISAAC SHELBY *Governor of Kentucky*

SHELBY TO HARRISON

FRANKFORT 5th May 1814

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book A" 185

DEAR SIR:

I have to acknowledge the receipt this moment of your fa-

vour of the 2nd inst., conformable to which I have issued my order to Major General Wm. E. Boswell to direct the organization and march from his Division as speedily as possible a detachment of militia to the amount of your requisition, for the purpose of guarding the British prisoners at New Port for another term of three months.

I have great doubts whether they can arrive in time to relieve those now on duty before the expiration of their term of service, but everything will be done (that can) to expedite their march—As those now on duty are volunteers and it being too late for them to engage in any business for the present season I think it most probable that they will cheerfully continue another tenor of ninety days or at least until they are duly relieved by the new guard—I have therefore directed Genl. Boswell to continue as many of the detachment now on duty as will consent to serve other ninety days.

With sentiments of sincere friendship and esteem I have the honor to be

your most obt. servt.

ISAAC SHELBY

His Excellency Major General WM. HENRY HARRISON

HARRISON TO THE PRESIDENT

Head-quarters, CINCINNATI, May 11, 1814

The Tippecanoe Text Book, 49 [*Niles' Register*]

DEAR SIR—I have this day forwarded to the secretary of war my resignation of the commission I hold in the army. [Not found]

This measure has not been determined on, without a reference to all the reasons which should influence a citizen, who is sincerely attached to the honor and interests of his country; who believes that the war in which we are engaged is just and necessary; and that the crisis requires the sacrifice of every private consideration, which could stand in opposition to the public good. But after giving the subject the most mature consideration, I am perfectly convinced, that my retiring from the army is as compatible with the claims of patriotism, as it is with those of my family, and a proper regard for my own feelings and honor.

I have no other motives in writing this letter than to as-

sure you, that my resignation was not produced by any diminution of the interests I have always taken in the success of your administration, or of respect and attachment for your person. The former can only take place, when I forget the republican principles in which I have been educated; and the latter, when I shall cease to regard those feelings, which must actuate every honest man, who is conscious of favors that it is out of his power to repay.

Allow me, etc.

WM. HENRY HARRISON

JAMES MADISON Esq. *President of U. S.*

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE, May 12, 1814

Har. Pa. 280

SIR:

For the better government, organization, and discipline of the Militia, I have laid off the Territory into three Divisions, six brigades, and twelve regiments, and have nominated the Major Generals and Brigadiers, a list of which I send on to be commissioned by the President of the U. S. agreeably to the provisions of the ordinance for regulating the Territories. Since the last return of the strength of the Territory there has been a very considerable augmentation and increase of the militia by a numerous imigration, and in the last return there is no mention of the Squadron of Cavalry, or of four Companies of Rangers. The increase of immigration which is very likely to continue very rapidly, and the return of the Rangers to the Militia will fully justify the arrangement. Not having any General officers appointed in the Territory, the Militia have been subjected to be commanded by General officers from the state of Kentucky, which has been a very considerable matter of complaint by them. I have arranged the officers as they are to take rank. For Major Generals I nominate Joseph Bartholomew first in rank, who will command the second Division. James Dill Second in rank to command the third Division, and Robert M. Evans third in rank to command the first Division. For Brigadier Generals first Division, first Brigade, Hugh McGary—1st Division 2nd brigade Walter Wilson—2nd division 3rd Brigade Joseph Paddocks,—Second Division fourth Brigade William McFarland—third Division, fifth Brigade James Noble—Third Division sixth Brigade

George Hunt—The commissions for the Brigadiers to be of the same date, who will take ranke agreeably to former services —The arrangement that I have made I think is for the good of the Service. There can be no doubt but it will have the effect to produce greater attention to discipline and give a considerable degree of consequence to the whole body of Militia.

I have the honor to be with respect your
humble Servant

TH. POSEY

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT May 14th 1814

Har. Pa. 107

SIR:

The inclosed copy of a letter to the President will sufficiently indicate the plan of campaign for the ensuing summer. Orders have been given by the Secretary of the Navy in conformity thereto, with the exception that two armed vessels and a detachment of Infantry, will prosecute the expedition against Makinaw.

It will be for you to direct the number of men to be retained as garrisons for Detroit and Malden. The residue will be held ready for the movement down the lake to Buffaloe whither will be taken also all that can be moved of the 17th 19th 24th and 28th regiments of infantry. Brigadier [Duncan] McArthur now relieved from Court Martial services may be designated for the command of these corps.

The adjutant general will transmit to you the new arrangement of the 17th and 19th regiments.

Accept sir the assurance of my great respect.

Maj. Genl. HARRISON

P. S. The President not having yet determined whether you shall act with, or without associates, in making the proposed treaty, your commission and instructions for that purpose are unavoidably delayed.

SHELBY TO THE PRESIDENT

FRANKFORT, May 15, 1814

Tippecanoe Text Book, 49 [*Niles' Register*]

DEAR SIR:

The interest I feel for the prosperity of our beloved coun-

try, at all times, but especially in the common cause in which she is at present engaged, will, I flatter myself, be a sufficient apology for addressing you this letter. The motives which impel me, arise from considerations of public good, and are unknown to the gentleman who is the subject of the letter.

It is not my intention to eulogize general Harrison; he is not in need of that aid, his merits are too conspicuous not to be observed; but it is my intention to express to you with candor, my opinion of the general, founded on personal observation.

A rumor has reached this state, which, from the public prints, appears to be believed, that the commanding general of the northern army may be removed from that command. The circumstance has induced me to reflect on the subject, and give the decided preference to major-general Harrison, as a successor. Having served a campaign with general Harrison, by which I have been enabled to form some opinion of his military talents, and capacity to command, I feel no hesitation to declare to you, that I believe him to be one of the first military characters I ever knew; and, in addition to this, he is capable of making greater personal exertions than any officer with whom I have ever served. I doubt not but it will hereafter be found, that the command of the north-western army, and the various duties attached to it, has been one of the most arduous and difficult tasks ever assigned to any officer in the United States; yet he surmounted all.

Impressed with the conviction, that general Harrison is fully adequate to the command of the northern army, should a change take place in that division, I have ventured thus freely to state my opinion of him, that he is a consummate general, and would fill that station with ability and honor; and that if, on the other hand, any arrangement should take place in the war department, which may produce the resignation of general Harrison, it will be a misfortune which our country will have cause to lament. His appointment to the command of the northern army would be highly gratifying to the wishes of the western people, except some who may, perhaps, be governed by sinister views.

I confess the first impressions upon my mind, when informed of the defeat of colonel [William] Dudley's regiment, on the 5th of May last, were unfavorable to general Harrison's

plans; but on correct information, and a knowledge of his whole plans, I have no doubt but they were well concerted, and might, with certainty, have been executed had his orders been strictly obeyed. I mention this subject because Mr. H. Clay informed me that he had shown you my letter, stating the impressions which that affair had first made upon my mind, on information that was not correct.

Hoping that my opinion of this meritorious officer will not be unacceptable to you, I have candidly expressed it, and hoping the apology stated in the preceding part of this letter, will justify the liberty taken of intruding opinions unsolicited.

I have the honor to be, most respectfully, your obedient servant.

ISAAC SHELBY

His Ex. JAMES MADISON, *Pres U. S.*

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT May 24th 1814

Har. Pa. 108

SIR:

Your letters of the 10th and 11th instant have been received. [Not found] Your resignation has been communicated to the President who is now on a visit in Virginia.

As soon as the Commission is returned from the President, it will be transmitted, with the necessary instructions for holding the proposed treaty with the Indians.

Col. R. M. Johnson and the Hon. Jeremiah Morrow will be associated with you in this mission of which they are advised and requested to communicate with you relative to the place of meeting.

Major Lownsly of the Canadian Militia who has been recently made prisoner should be retained until further orders.

Maj. General HARRISON

SECRETARY OF WAR TO HARRISON

WAR DEPARTMENT, May 28th, 1814

Har. Pa. 109

SIR:

Your resignation is accepted to take place on the 31st instant as you requested and Genl. [Duncan] McArthur is accordingly ordered to take command of the District.

I beg you Sir, to accept the assurance of my great Respect.
Major Genl. HARRISON

COL. ROBERT MCDOUALL TO INDIANS

MICHILLIMACINAC June 5, 1814

Mich. Hist. and Pion. Soc. Pub. XV, 581

MY CHILDREN:

I embrace the opportunity when we are here met to celebrate the Birth Day of the King, your great Father, to reply to the words which you lately addressed to me; on this happy occasion, I am proud to see such an assemblage of distinguished Chiefs & Warriors around me, many of whom have already signalized their valor in his service during this war. I thank you all for your past services, but particularly for the proof of loyalty and attachment you have shown in hastening to the defence of the Island when threatened by the enemy. You have now proved that you merit the benevolence & kindness with which your Great Father has always treated you; be assured that the interests of his red children will never be forgotten by him, that he will keep his word & the promises which he has made you.

My Children, Listen to my words, that I may make you acquainted with the auspicious events which have lately taken place. Your Great Father Sir George Prevost has received powerful reinforcements, and is at the Head of a large Army of Your White Brethren, who have again defeated the Americans, in another attempt to invade Lower Canada. Kingston and Fort George are now places of great strength, and contain formidable Garrisons; we are in possession of the whole Niagara Frontier and also of its harbour which the enemy last year found so advantageous. Our Fleets on Lake Ontario are also more numerous, and stronger than those of the Enemy, the important Fort of Oswego has lately been taken from them by our ships, while theirs dare not stir from the shelter of their harbours.

My children, Everything looks well for us, the black & louring clouds that spread darkness around us are dispersed, and we have once more over our heads a clear and serene sky. The Great Spirit shines on our just cause, but frowns on that of the deceitful Americans, because they have cruelly

oppressed you, they have robbed you of those lands which you inherited from your brave ancestors, and still they are not satisfied, the fertile Country which they have usurped, only encrease their appetite for fresh encroachments, and you will gradually be driven toward the sitting sun.

My Children You possess the Warlike spirit of your Fathers you can only avoid this horrible fate, by joining hand in hand with my warriors in first driving the Big Knives from this Island, & again opening the great road to your country. I shall then be enabled liberally to supply your wants; You will once more see the Traders in your Villages, with Ammunition for yourselves, and clothing for your women & children; the days of your prosperity will return, and the songs and the dance be again heard in your land.

My children, The time is favourable for this, and will soon arrive. The King your great Father has destroyed his foes on the other side of the big Lake; He is now the most powerful monarch in the world; and has no other Enemy but the Americans. You know we were often victorious over them when but few in numbers, how then will they stand against the invincible Warriors & the mighty Fleets which are now coming against them? Already they tremble at the thoughts of this, and know not which way to turn to escape the tremendous vengence which they know they have deserved. They are conscious that resistance is vain, and that their power compared to that of King George, is like dust before the wind. They therefore wish to lay down the Tomahawk & treat for peace.

My Children, I have heard of the message which the American have lately sent to your red Brethren; it is sufficiently humiliating, for it acknowledges their incapacity to carry on the war with the King Your Great Father; it likewise shows their usual disregard to truth, for they say that when a peace is made, he will withdraw, from you, and that they then will punish all those who do not now renounce our friendship.

My Children, When these perfidious people fail in war, they try to succeed by artifice & cunning, qualities to which they excel all other nations. You must therefore beware how you are deceived by their stratagems, which is meant to sow dissention among the tribes, in order that one after the other, they more easily become the victims of their treachery.

My Children, I again ask, which of you can be so blind &

infatuated, as not to see that the big Knives will never be satisfied, until they possess all your lands and destroy you root and branch from the face of the earth. They have no pity for you, and openly avow this wicked intention. Which of you do not know that it is the powerful protection of the King your great Father, which has hitherto saved you from this miserable fate, and which can only save you from it in future.

My Children, Listen well to my words, none of you must be misled by this deceitful message, for it will be dangerous for you to go astray into the wrong road, and difficult for you to return. What is there in it but a convincing proof that the power of the Enemy is on the decline and instead of intimidating your young men, should inspire them with fresh courage to get back their old boundaries & restore the days of plenty and happiness among you; Listen again my children, the time is at hand when these great blessings can be recovered.

My Children Should the King your great Father deign to listen to the proposal which the Enemy have made for peace, it will be on the express condition that your interests shall be first considered, your just claims admitted and no infringements of your rights permitted in future.

My Children doubt not but this will be the case. The King your great Father has assured you that he will never abandon his red children whom he has so long fostered and adopted. The Great Chief at Quebec, Sir George Prevost has also given his word to the same effect, this ought to set your minds at rest upon the subject, for they are not the promises of the faithless Americans but of those who hate duplicity and falsehood.

My Children I opened my ears and listened attentively to the words which you addressed to me. I was moved with compassion when you told me of your want and distresses last winter, and that some of the supplies intended for you did not reach you owing to the distance. Now that you are here, I will endeavour to make up as well as I can for the disappointment and to give you proofs of my esteem, and of the confidence which I place in your valor and courage.

My Children I am highly pleased that you have listened to the wise councils of your friend and chief the Red Head, whose constant study is for your advantage and to do you

good. Your Great Father at Quebec has confidence in him, and in appointing him your chief, has given you a strong proof of his paternal regard.

My Childn I wish you to show your gratitude by obeying him in all things that he wishes you to do. I recommend to you that the utmost friendship and harmony prevail among the different tribes, and that the young men do not disgrace themselves by any disturbance or impropriety of conduct. It is proper that they should listen to the voice of their Chiefs & of thier Fathers, & derive instructions from their Council and experience.

My Children I am delighted with what your Great Chief the Red Head has told me; that in your wars with the Big Knives you have been equally distinguished by your bravery in the field and by your mercy to the vanquished; that in no one instance has their helpless women and children sustained an injury. Let me exhort you to a continuance of this praiseworthy act, which is the more meritorious on your part, considering the provocation which the enemy have given you.

My Children Happy are those warrors who rush into the fight, having justice upon their side. You go forth to combat for the tombs of your forefathers and for those lands, which ought now to afford shelter and sustenance to your wives and children. May the Great Spirit give you strength and courage in so good a cause, and crown you with victory in the day of Battle.

Lt. Col. ROBERT MCDOUALL

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE IND. TER. 23 June 1814

Har. Pa. 283

SIR:

You will receive inclosed a letter [April 12 above] from Mr. John Johnston Indian agent to Mr. Benjn. Huffman an inhabitant of this Territory relative to a child of his taken by the Indians. If you can be instrumental in regaining the child, it will be a very humane and friendly act in restoreing him to his parents. The discription recited in Mr. Johnston letter, I am informed by Wm. Huffman answers to that of his child except the hair is of a shade between red and yellow.

I am very respectfully
Your Obedient Servt.
TH. POSEY

SHELBY TO HARRISON

FRANKFORT June 28th 1814

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book B" 112

MY DEAR SIR:

I had the pleasure last evening to receive your favour of the 27th inst., Soon after I wrote you last I was determined to accept of the Mission to treat with the North W. Indians in that determination I was a good deal influenced by the pleasure I should derive of acting once more with you for the interest of our country But the constitutional Barrier which has since presented itself has made me decline all thoughts of the journey of which I have already advised the president of the United States of my determination.

The 17th section of the 6th article of the Constitution of Kentucky declares in express terms that "No person holding or exercising any office of trust or profit under the United State shall hold or exercise any office of trust or profit under this Commonwealth." The office of a Commissioner to treat with the Indians is an office of trust and the necessity of commission from the president (which I have received) is the strongest evidence of the fact.

I have not a single doubht but my acceptance of the Commission to treat with the Indians would vacate the office of Governor of Kentucky and altho, I care very little about this office I wish I was rid of it upon Honourable terms—I would not do an act by which my Country might be thrown into a state of confusion & distraction—for there are not wanting amongst us men enough ready to lay hold of any pretext to disturb the public mind—when you have reflected on these subjects you will I have no doubt think that my objection to accept the mission is well founded. That your efforts to serve your Country in the arduous task before you may be crowned with real advantages to her interests and with honour to yourself is the sincere prayer of My Dear Sir your very affectionate friend & most obt. servant.

ISAAC SHELBY

Major Genl. WM. HENRY HARRISON

P. S. present me respectfully to Governor Cass—

THOMAS POSEY

Thomas Posey, second and last Territorial Governor of Indiana, was a neighbor of the Washingtons and Harrisons of Virginia. He was born near Alexandria, July 9, 1750. In 1774 he joined the Dunmore expedition against the Ohio Indians, marching under General Lewis to the field of Point Pleasant, where he distinguished himself in that bloody battle, October 10, 1774. The following year he helped his patriotic neighbors drive Governor Dunmore out of Virginia. During the Revolution he was in the service continuously—under Washington in New Jersey, under Morgan at Saratoga, under Sullivan against the Iroquois, under Washington at Monmouth, under Wayne at Stony Point, under Washington at Yorktown—and made an honorable record.

February 22, 1793, he was appointed a Brigadier General and joined the army, under his old commander, Wayne, in Ohio. December 19, 1798, he was appointed a land commissioner in Virginia. About 1800 he came to Kentucky and became a member of the legislature. Just before the war of 1812 he moved to Louisiana and soon after was appointed a United States senator to finish the unexpired term of Senator Destrihan.

February 14, 1813, President Madison appointed Posey governor of Indiana territory. He served till Indiana became a state, December, 1816, when he became Indian agent on the Wabash. He died at Shawneetown, Illinois, March 19, 1818.

Posey Convening Assembly

Jeffersonville July 16 1814

Western Sun, July 23, 1814

PROCLAMATION

Whereas circumstances of a nature highly important to the welfare and interest of the territory, render it necessary that the Legislature should be convened at an earlier period than is fixed and prescribed by law. Therefore, I Thomas Posey, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Indiana Territory, do issue this my Proclamation, Requiring the attendance of the members of the Legislative Council and House of Representatives of said territory, who may be elected at the ensuing election on the first Monday in August next, to meet at the town of Corydon, the seat of government, on Monday the 15th day of August next, at which time will be laid before them for their consideration, such subjects as will require their attention.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Territory, at Jeffersonville, this 16th day of July, 1814.

Th. Posey.

Posey to General Assembly

Corydon, August 15, 1814

Mss. in Secretary of State's Office
Western Sun, August 27, 1814

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives:

The circumstances which have been considered to exist by the passage of a law at the last session of the legislature, entitled "An act reorganizing the courts of justice", have constrained me to convene the legislature at the present period, believing it to be necessary that the law should undergo a reconsideration and amendment; or make such other arrangements as in the discretion of the legislature may be thought advisable.

The present existing law reorganizing the courts of justice has not only been thought defective by the judges of the superior court, but by a number of law characters, and others, men of information and experience. Some of the courts have

been partially organized, and in some counties there has been no court established under the present law, and none of the courts have proceeded to do business considered of any material consequence. That, taking into consideration the grievances the citizens of the territory labour under in the delay, and stop put to the proceedings of the courts, I have thought it my indispensable duty to convene the legislature as early as possible after the election.

It may also be advisable that the militia law should undergo a reconsideration. The mode of calling out the militia into actual service in time of invasion is not so clearly defined as it may be, and by a reconsideration, other defects probably may be discovered which may make it necessary to amend. At all times it is necessary to have the militia well organized and kept in good training, but particularly at the present crisis of the state of affairs, so interesting to the U. States. Peace may take place between the U. States and G. Britain, at a short period, but from recent circumstances that have taken place in Europe, I am of opinion that peace is much more remote than many calculate upon; and the best way to have an honorable peace is to be well prepared for war. I do not despair of obtaining an honorable peace, neither have I a want of confidence in the administration of our general government, or in the disposition of our citizens at large to risk their lives and property for the security of our just rights. God will protect our country if the citizens have virtue, and will lay their shoulders to the wheels of government. Better would it be for the credit of our nation to wage a perpetual war, than be disgraced by a relinquishment of the rights of freemen.

The length of the present session depends upon yourselves; you can make it long or short, as may best comport with the interest of our territory. I shall not only feel it a duty incumbent upon me to coöperate with you, but it will be a pleasure for me to do so, and to render every possible service for the public good. In the course of your deliberations, I recommend harmony, & wish you a pleasant session.

TH: POSEY

POSEY TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

CORYDON August 18, 1814

Western Sun, September 3, 1814
Mss. in Secretary of State's Office

To the Honourable President and Members of the Legislative Council:

It is with much pleasure I observe in your answer to my communication that my conduct in convening the legislature at the present period meets your approbation, and that you approve of the several subjects offered for your consideration.

I am of opinion with you, that the law reorganizing the courts of justice is far from being so defective as many have considered, and as has been handed out to the community; and I am of opinion that had the courts been organized to the extent that was contemplated when passed, that it would have been attended with happy consequences and given very general satisfaction.

In the course of your deliberations to provide a remedy for our present deranged judiciary, I have full confidence that you will use every exertion in your power to have the best possible system that you can devise, to secure to our citizens their just rights of life, liberty, and property. I receive with pleasure your sincere wish for my happiness, and most sincerely hope and wish you may individually and collectively enjoy health and prosperity.

I am, with perfect respect and regard, your obt. servt.

TH: POSEY

ISAAC SHELBY TO THOMAS POSEY

CHARLESTOWN September 15th 1814

Mss. in Indiana State Library

His Excellency THOMAS POSEY
Governor and Commander in Chief of Inda Tery

SIR

Not having saw Colo [Joseph] Bartholomew last evening as I expected in consequence of it being late in the evening as I passed, I this day called to see the Colo and communicated to him the subject of our conversation when I was last in your Company—Upon which the Colo observed that in Justice he could not feel himself sufficiently qualified to fill that Office,

and discharge the duties which would be incumbent upon him, And at the same time requested me to return his warmest thanks to you for the high Consideration your Excellency entertained of him &c; The Colo then observed there were men in the County he thought better qualified for that Office than himself, and Particularly named Judge [William] Goodwin, as he had heretofore filled the Office of a Judge in our Former Court of Common Pleas, which Office he had Honorably filled, and as Mr. Goodwin had experience and was also Better qualified than himself, he, would certainly much rather Judge Goodwin would be named to your Excellency—when I discovered that the Colo was averse to it, I Rode over to Judge Goodwin's, to whom I expressed the Colos. wish &c. and as the Judge had been named also to you, I solicited Mr. Goodwin upon the occasion, who expressed much reluctance to accept, having heretofore spent a considerable length of time in discharging the duties of a member of the Court, and would rather some other person could be had that was Better qualified—

However the Judge after some consideration observed he was never unwilling to serve his Countrey in any way that he thought he could render them any kind of good—And that if your Excellency should think proper to confer on him the appointment he would with pleasure accept &c

Not presuming to Dictate to your Excellency I feel no kind of doubt in saying that Judge Goodwin [appointed Sept. 17, 1814] will Honourably fill the Office should you think proper to appoint him—

With Sentiments of high consideration I am &c

ISAAC SHELBY

POSEY TO WILLIAM POLKE

JEFFERSONVILLE 15th September 1814

Polke Mss. furnished by Mrs. Rumely

DR. SIR:

I herewith enclose to you the commission for the Associate Judge for the county of Knox, & a commission for coroner of Sd. county, also a commission for Isaac Blackford Esqr. as circuit Judge of the 1st District, & a commission for yourself to administer the oath of office.

I have no blanks in the office at present for Justice of the

Peace, we were expecting them from the printer every day, as soon as they come to hand I shall a commission for W. McNamee as Justice of the Peace. After your clerk is commissioned & taken the oath of office &c. he will have the power to administer oaths of office. As soon as your Judges have taken the oaths of office I wish them to proceed immediately to make choice of a Clerk of the Circuit Court & send on the nomination as soon as possible [see Oct. 4, below].

Yours very respectfully

THS. POSEY

Endorsed on back: WILLIAM POLKE Knox County

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE INDIANA TERRITORY 16th Sept. 1814

Har. Pa. 293

SIR:

Friendly Indians in a small number have resided at Vincennes nearly 10 months, and there is an addition made to them at different times now making the number 17, some of which are found to be very useful in scouting and following after Indians who at times commit depredations on the frontiers and near to Vincennes. I have ordered that rations should be furnished them, also some necessary clothing. It is expected that more will come in. I wish to be advised upon the subject. It will be necessary to appoint some person to attend to them. Mr. Joseph Barron Indian interpretor for this Territory would be a proper person. He resides at Vincennes.

I am very respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.

TH. POSEY

General JOHN ARMSTRONG, *Secretary of War*

WILLIAM POLKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES, October 4th 1814

Mss. furnished by Mrs. Fannie S. Rumely

SIR

I have received commissions of the Circuit Judges Mr. [Isaac] Blackford, Circuit Judge Daniel Sullivan and James B. McCall associate Judges [see below] and proceeded to ad-

minister the oath of office to the associate judges on the 21st of September at which time I communicated that part of your Excellency's letter to the Judges wishing them to proceed immediately to the nomination of a clerk of the Circuit Court the Associates after consultation proceeded to the nomination of a Clerk as it was uncertain whether the nomination could with safety be delayed untill the arrival of Mr. Blackford at Vincennes as the Court Came on within a few days and I informed the Judges that in a conversation with Mr. Blackford on the Subject he had informed me Stranger as he was at Vincennes he should concur in the nomination of the Associates for a Clerk, on the same evening Mr. [Robert] Bunton one of the Candidates for the Clerkship presented a petition addressed to your Excellency signed by a number of respectable characters praying his appointment as Clerk and wished my signature to which I declined observing to him that I wished not to interfere in favor as they observed to Mr. Bunton that your Excellency had authorized the Judges to nominate a Clerk and advised him to present his petition to the Judges for their consideration and Received for an answer that he had a similar petition for the Judges and that Sending the same to your Excellency would do no harm or words to that amount. I then returned Home Satisfied in having Done my Duty and yesterday morning early came to this place in order to administer the oaths of office to Mr. Blackford and the Clerk so that no neglect of mine should impede the courts proceeding to Business on my arrival I proceeded to administer the oath of office to Mr. Blackford. When he informed me your Excellency had enclosed a Blank Commission for the Clerk and authorized him to fill up the same which on mature reflection he had Declined and informed your Excellency thereof I sincerely regrett the course this Business has taken as at the time the Delegation from Knox wished you to postpone the appointment of Clerk untill the Judges should nominate one and you was so obliging as to accede to their wishes no difficulty was expected from that course of proceedure as from the communication. I expect you will receive by this mail your Excellency will be in full possession of all the circumstances necessary to be known. I hope you will proceed to the appointment as soon as possible as the County is suffering seriously for the want of such an officer

particularly several Estates within my knowledge who cannot obtain Letters of administration before the appointment and it is all important the stock should be sold as soon as possible which must be my excuse for troubling your Excellency at this time. I remain your Sincere friend [see Sept. 15 above].

WM. POLKE

His Excellency THOS. POSEY.

P.S. The Associate Judges wishes me to inform your Excellency that Mr. Bunton laid the petition mentioned above before them and they took the same under consideration in their nomination.

SHELBY TO POSEY

FRANKFORT Octr 31st

From Governor Isaac Shelby's "Letter Book A" 219

SIR

I have the honor of inclosing herewith a Copy of an indictment against one Isaac Holeman, who I am informed has fled from Jefferson County [Ky.] to your territory—in persuance of the Act of Congress in such case provided I have to request of your Excellency to have him arrested, and information thereof communicated to me that he may be brought to trial.

Should it be found more convenient you may, in case of his arrest, cause him to be delivered to any person designated by Judge Cosby.

I have the honor to be
Respectfully
Your mo. obt. servt.

ISAAC SHELBY

His Excy. THOMAS POSEY *Govr. of Indiana*

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE, IND. TER. 3 NOV. 1814

Har. Pa. 295

SIR:

I herewith inclose to you the copy of a letter which I received by express from Joseph Barron Indian Interpreter at Vincennes. In my answer to him I have ordered the friendly Indians to be received and furnished with rations and a present of some trifling things and a few blankets should they

stand in need of them. I have likewise given orders to assign to them a proper place for an encampment, near to wood and water and have ordered that a commissioned officer from the Militia of conciliating disposition and friendly disposed guard should be stationed near their encampment for the purpose of protecting the Indians from evil disposed men, and to keep order and prevent their stealing from or insulting any of the inhabitants. It is necessary to appoint an agent to attend minutely to the wants and necessaries of those Indians and receive all friendly Indians that may come in. I have made a temporary appointment of Joseph Barron, Indian interpreter to discharge the duties assigned.

I wish to receive instructions from the department of war relative to the foregoing subject, and such other circumstances as may occur relative to Indian affairs. There has been for 12 months or more 17 friendly Indians at Vincenns under my protection, who have received regular supplies of provisions and some articles of clothing. Of this circumstance, I gave information to Gen. Armstrong secretary of war and requested that he would instruct me upon the subjects as well as to any other friendly Indians that might come in.

I also wrote to him that there was clothing which had been deposited and which was in charge of the former Governor, that all the blankets which had been delivered to Gen. [Samuel] Hopkin's militia agreeable to orders (Genl. [John] Gibson informs me) but as to the validity of the orders I am not informed. All the woollens are also given out and what now remains, are muslins, callicoes, shawles and trifling articles all much dammaged. There are some saddles and keggs of powder etc. I am of opinion much waste has been made, but if the few articles on hand were sold they would bring something to the public whereas by keeping they probably will be a total loss. I have never received an answer from the department of war either upon the subject of Indian affairs, or the Indian goods and if convenient should be glad to be advised.

I am very respectfully your
Obedient Servant.
TH. POSEY

Hon. JAMES MONROE *Secretary of War*
City of WASHINGTON

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JFEEFRSONVILLE Ind. Ter. 12th Nov. 1814

Har. Pa. 302, 303

SIR:

About a week since, by last mail, from this I wrote to you upon the subject of Indian affairs and enclosed to you a letter from Joseph Barron Indian Interpreter at Vincennes, respecting the subject.

I have this moment received by mail a letter from Judge B. Parks of Vincennes, giving me information that upon the notice given by Little Eyes a chief mentioned in Barron's letter inclosed to you [see above] of the encampment of Mainpolle's [Marpack's] Potawatomies, who have been commiting considerable depredations in the neighbourhood of Vincennes and Fort Harrison, and now encamped on the road to St. Josephs on Yellow creek at a place call'd the great cut off 90 miles above Ft. Harrison, 40 in number that Capt. [Pierre] Andre commanding a company of Rangers at Vincennes, a brave and determined officer, set out on an expedition the 6th Inst., with two hundred rangers and mounted men and 25 days provisions in order to strike at Mainpolles encampment, or where he and his party may be found. He has taken with him Little Eyes or a petit onounted, who was desirous of accompanying the expedition also Joseph Barron Interpreter. Should Capt. Andre be fortunate in falling in with Mainpolle and his Indians, I have no doubt of his success.

Capt. [William] Russell who commanded at Vincennes upon being informed of the death of Brig. Genl. [Benjamin] Howard, went on immediately to St. Louis to take command there.

You will please to answer my letter of the 3d inst addressed to you upon the subject relative to instructions respecting the reception of Indians who may come in proffesing friendship. They must be fed, and have some necessary clothing furnished at expense of the public. Should it be thought proper to have an agent appointed for the purpose of attending to their necessities any instruction which I may receive shall be duly discharged.

I am very respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.

TH. POSEY

Col. JAMES MONROE *Secretary of War*
CITY OF WASHINGTON

BARRON TO POSEY

VINCENNES Nov. 12 1814

Har. Pa. 297-298

merely with a view of getting near Vincennes for the purposes of trade and friendly intercourse. They further stated that there were many other families or large parties equally anxious to come in, could they only have assurance of being well received, among which a camp of Kickapoos of about 20 cabbins residing north of Tippecanoe. Upon this conference it was determined that Little Eyes should be detained until your pleasure in the case should be known but as they had promised their family to return in eight days, and warned them in case they did not, to ascribe their absence to some fatal accident or occurrence and immediately to break up their camp and fly back, it was deemed expedient that Tacko set out tomorrow in order that he may reach them before the time expires. I shall continue to support and protect Little Eyes, and any other friendly Indians that may come in, in conformity with your directions, and shall expect your farther command in this relation. I would further beg leave respectfully to suggest to you the propriety of making some trifling present to each one that may com in provided there be proper deportment. Not that they have hinted that any such thing is desired or ecpected, but merely as a measure dictated by policy.

I presume one or more of the officers will furnish you with a corresponding narative. and now sir, after having done what I conceived to be my duty in this business I respectfully await your dictates as to the best means of bringing repentant enemies over to peace and amity, and your orders as to the part I am to act therein.

I have the honor to be very respect

Your Obt. Servt. JOSEPH BARRON

Indian Interpreter

P. S.

Little Eyes gives information that the friendly Kickapoos already mentioned are in two parties, one about 12 miles above Tippecanoe and the other about 16 miles farther and that about 60 miles from them on the road to St. Josephs on

Yellow Creek at a place called the Great Cutoff is a band of about 40 Potawatomie warriors under Mainpoke and that these are the Indians that have killed our men and stole their horses at Ft. Harrison and the neighbourhood. The information comes through the Kickapoos mentioned who state that they have a small prairie full of horses. That they slip out from their hiding place and sell the horses, come down here, get a resupply, return with them etc. Now as it appears that we have enemies on the north, it seems to me a measure of indespensible caution and in this I have the concurrence of all with whom I have conversed, that in order to distinguish between the friend and the foe, that all Indians that are received as friendly be place on our West or south, say Embarras, little Wabash, or White river, near the mouth in all which places game is abundant. This point is with deference submitted. [Fragment.]

J. B.

Benjamin Parke to Posey

Vincennes, Ind. Ter. 13th. Nov. 1814

Har. Pa. 299-301

Sir:

Capt. [Frederick] Sholts and Lt. [Hyacinth] LaSsell arrived from Fort Harrison this evening.

About the time Capt. [Pierre] Andre marched from this place, Lieut. LaSsell crossed the country to White river for Little eyes people and with them (10 or 12 warriors and 20 woman and children) joined the Captain at Ft. Harrison. Two Miamies who came to Little eyes camp, while the latter was here, gave Capt. Andre the following information. That there are about two hundred Kickapoos, warriors and a few Potawatomies on the Virmillion about three hundred Potawatomies at Tippecanoe and other bands of that tribe scattered from there to the Chicago and other posts of the enemy. The Kickapoos, in part are represented as friendly and the greater portion of the Potawatomies decidedly hostile. About the 1st of Oct. a number of these Kickapoos and Potawatomies received a considerable present of ammunition and clothing from a British trader near Chicago and the last of this month another supply was promised from the same place. The repulse of [George] Croghan at Mackinac, and the capture of Prairea De Chain were passed upon those Indians as sure

prognostigations of future success and that next spring, Detroit, and Vincennes were to be taken.

That the British were using every exertion to keep the Indians steady to their interest—and promised the establishment of a post at or near Chicago that the few Potawatomies that visited at Greenville at the treaty were advised to that step by the British to get powder and ball, to be used against our people on their return—And that the Kickapoos being questioned as to their motive in going to the British at Chicago, answered, that their father, the President was too sparing of his presents.

Lieut. Lassell has known the Miamies who gave this information for ten or twelve years; and has great confidence in their integrity. Capt. Andre believing his force much too small to march into the Indian country as intended, halted at Ft. Harrison and yesterday dispatched Little Eyes to the Kickapoos, to ascertain more precisely their intention.

Lassell believes that the Weas (upwards of two hundred souls) and probably a part of the Kickapoos will come in and a prospect of a small supply of ammunition and clothing will no doubt induce some of the Indians really hostile to profess peace and claim our protection, and their wants supplied for the winter, desert and turn their arms against us in the spring. Under these circumstances I must beg the favor of more precise instruction than I have yet recd. What place is to be assigned for the residence of the Indians that may come in? and what is the nature and extent of the supplies with which you wish them furnished? If they are fixed beyond the settlements where they might derive a partial subsistence from hunting, they will not only keep the frontiers in alarm, but they will themselves be liable to injury by mischievous white people, and however well disposed, any ill treatment from us, would occasion their instantly rejoining the hostile Indians. If brought within the settlements, they will be an intolerable expense to the Government but probably it may be cheaper to feed and clothe them than to wage war against them.

In regard to the Indians generally, whilst the British, or their agents have access to them, they will never remain at peace with us and should the Miamies remain in the Indian country this winter, they will, if not from inclination, at least from a dread of the Potawatomies be again at war with us next spring. Possibly it might be best for peace not to be

made with, or any protection afforded any of the Indians, but upon condition of their entering into our service, and sending their women and children within our settlements. We would then have a strong pledge for their fidelity, and their services against the hostile Indians might be rendered eminently useful.

I have the honor to be very respectfully Sir Your Obt. Svt.

B. PARKE

Governor POSEY

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE Ind. Ter. 18th Nov. 1814.

Har. Pa. 304, 305

SIR:

I am of opinion from recent information that the Indians are about to become extremely troublesome upon our frontier.

I have by express just received a letter [Nov. 13 above] from Judge Benj. Park of Vincennes a copy of which I herewith inclose to you.

I have written very lately to you upon Indian affairs, and requesting your instructions upon that subject you will discover in a considerable degree from Judge Parks letter what may be necessary to be done. Untill I receive instructions from the department of war I have authorized Judge Parke and Mr. Tusaint Dubois both residents in and near Vincennes to receive the friendly Indians and have them encamped at some suitable distance (near to wood and water) from Vincennes to have them supplied with rations by the contractor, authorizing him to issue provisions for the Indians; and do for the Indians that may come in, whatever may appear for the best advantage to promote the public welfare. Should you think it necessary to appoint an agent to attend to these friendly Indians that may come in to Vincennes, I could recommend Mr. Tusaint Dubois who is a man very much respected and to be relied on, who has been an old Indian trader, is well acquainted with a great many of them; speaks the Indian language, and has been a resident at Vincennes for at least thirty or more years. It will be necessary that supplies of provision some articles of clothing and some ammunition be ordered for them.

I am very respectfully yours

Your Obt. Servt.

TH. POSEY

B. Parke to Posey

Vincennes Nov. 18, 1814

Har. Pa. 309-314

Sir:

Yours of the 12th inst. has been received. Information by the last mail renders it probable that Montreal and Mackinac will not be obtained this campaign, and those places in the hands of the English, the Indians will receive their accustomed supplies of arms, and ammunition and clothing for another year. Whilst the war continues with Great Britain, and the subjects of that power have access to the Indians the latter will also be engaged in war with us. Indeed where they break and make peace, they still entertain an implacable enmity against us, and which manifests itself in open hostilities on the slightest occasions that occur. The Indians feel the greatest regard for the French but cut off from all intercourse with that nation, the British have the next place in their affections, the Americans in war or peace they detest. The reason is obvious. The French while they possessed the Canadas asked for no more land than was necessary for their trading establishments. Their settlements occasioned no deminution of game, no interruption of the Chase, They exchanged goods for peltry many of the Traders married into Indian families and adopted their language, manners and dress. Their trade was beneficial, their policy conciliatory and the extension of the settlements of the British Colonies excited as lively resentments in the minds of the Savages, as have since been manifested in their wars against the Americans. The policy of the French has since the peace of '63 been pursued by Great Britain and friendly connections with that Government and enmity and hostility against the Americans are cultivated and maintained through the agency and influence of the desendants of the ancient Canadian French. They are to be found at every village and camp from our frontier settlements to the Slave Lake and the Mountains and by their employment only the N. W. Company were enabled to extend their trade and obtain the control they now possess and exercise over the Indians. But, in addition to the machinations and influence of the Traders there are other sources of irritation. They dread and are exasperated at the extension and progress of our settlements. There are Indians now living

who in their youth, were accustomed to cross the Allegheny mountains in their war excursions. They now find our settlements at the Mississippi and the Lakes. Ten or twelve years ago they enjoyed extensive hunting grounds on the Ohio and before the present war commenced our settlements had forced them back toward three hundred miles from that river. The Indians are alarmed for their lands, the British for the Canadas and hence the famous projects of Tecumseh, of Uniting all the nations East of the Mississippi and south of the lakes and prohibiting the sale of lands by any Tribe without the consent of the whole confederacy. Fifty or sixty years ago the Peorias, Cahokias, Micheganians, Kaskaskias, and Peankashaws, especially the two last, were numerous and warlike, three of those tribes are now, I believe extinct, the others nearly so and the few that remain are the most worthless vagrants of their color. Whatever the Indians may apprehend fate has in reserve for them they doubt not, but that their misfortunes and calamities will proceed from the Americans. they will never treat with us in good faith whilst the British hold any part of the Continent contiguous to them and if they make peace it will be founded in hypocracy and violated the first favourable opportunity that occurs. The Delewares may be considered an exception. They are however the only one of the small bands that were with the N. W. Army need not be mentioned. I speak generally of the Indians. Tribes that had participated largely of the bounty of the Government, and Chiefs who had been caressed and indulged to the extent of their desires were on the commencement of the war amongst the foremost in raising the Tomahawk against us.

An officer at the head of his army—after giving them repeated defeats, is the most competent negociator to treat with the Indians. The first treaty of Greenville was of longer duration than it otherwise would have been as General Wayne was the agent employed to make it; but even that Treaty would have been violated long before it was had it not been for the influence of the British agents having prepared the Indians for war. They wished the relation between us and England to assume a more decisive character before they commenced hostilities and it was contrary to their views that the battle of Tippecanoe was fought.

If the information derived from the Miamis and communicated to you in my last letter be correct, the motive of the Potawatamies in re-establishing themselves on the Wabash is clear, it is for the purpose of driving the Miamis into the hostile confederacy and if they remain beyond the frontiers, it will in four months be accomplished. And next spring, as supplies can be obtained by the Indians from Chicago as they were formerly at Malden, our situation will be precisely what it was in 1812.

I have the Honor to be very respect.
Sir Your Obt. Servant
B. PARKE

Governor POSEY

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES Nov. 20th, 1814

Har. Pa. 327, 328

SIR:

I have this day received a letter from Gov. [William] Clarke. Information recently conveyed to him by the Indians of the Illinois River induces a belief that the object of the assemblage at Tippecanoe is hostile. This together with the information from the Miamis removes all doubt upon the subject. The British are still in possession of Prairie De Chain and it was rumoured that a detachment of Troops were on their march from Montreal by the way of Grand River, to strengthen that Post. Rest assured that if Montreal and Machinac should remain in the hands of the English till next spring, that the frontiers of this and the two neighbouring Territories will receive a more severe scourging than they have yet suffered.

I have the Honor to be respectfully Sir Your Obt. Servant.
B. PARKE

GOV. POSEY

P. S. At the date of the Governor's letter Col. [William] Russell was in pursuit of some Indians in the direction of Boon's Lick on the Missouri and expected to return to St. Lewis before Wednesday next. I hope the Col. when he hears the change that has taken place on the Wabash will return to this place. The Possee at Tippecanoe ought to be surprised and driven off directly. The safety of the frontier of this Territory depends on keepin the hostile Indians beyond the Illinois River.

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES 23rd. November 1814

Har. Pa. 309

SIR:

Your letters of the 15th and 18th inst were received on Monday evening. I had hoped that you should have furnished me instructions more specific than I have yet received and I beg you to be assured that I feel a just sense for the confidense you are pleased to repose in me but under an authority so general and unlimited with no information of the treaty of Greenville except from vague report or any knowledge of the policy that the President might wish to be pursued towards the Indians, whilst attempting to secure the frontiers from Indian depredation, I may involve the interests and counteract the views of the Gen. Govt. Under these circumstances I shall not encourage the visits or enter into any arrangement with any of the Indians. With such as may come to Ft. Harrison a friendly understanding will be cultivated, some provisions occasionally furnished, and to facilitate their hunting ammunition very sparingly distributed. I will keep an interpreter at that post and should any considerable number come in I will go there myself. There is not much danger to be apprehended from the hostile Indians before the month of February by that time they will be in motion and before Christmas it is to be hoped that the directions of the secretary of war may be received.

I handed Mr. [Touissant] Dubois your letter. He declines accepting the agency offered him. He can neither read nor write, but in the way you proposed he can be useful. I believe his zeal and enterprise were frequently serviceable to Gov. Harrison.

I have the honor to be with respectfully your Hm. Ser.

B. PARKE

P. W. I had determined yesterday to send a copy of our correspondence to the Secretary of War and to seek special instructions from that Depar. I have this morn. abandoned it. If I do no good I will endeavor to do no harm.

JAMES BIGGER TO POSEY

VINCENNES Nov. 23, 1814

Har. Pa. 329

DEAR SIR:

On yesterday Negomin a war chief of the Delaware Tribe came into the settlement with the object of obtaining permission for himself and party of Friendly with the Whites on the frontiers. His party consists of twenty men with their families. I directed the said chief and his party to keep twenty miles without the settlement on sand creek until I could know from your Excellency your wishes respecting the party. I gave the liberty to some of the party to come in and procure salt and some other necessaries in as much as they were suffering. They will be in in the course of four or five days. Negomin himself in ten or twelve. I wish information of your Excellency how to act.

I am with Esteem Yours
Obediently

JAMES BIGGER, *Capt. U. S. R.*

GOV. POSEY

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE INDIANA TERRITORY 25th [28th] Nov. 1814

Har. Pa. 306, 307

SIR:

I am convinced that your time is very precious at the present periods, which makes me the more reluctant to make any encroachments upon it; but as the subject upon which I have been addressing and am now addressing for your consideration, is of considerable importance I think it will be a sufficient apology.

Judge Benj. Parke, whome I vested with such powers as I may possess, for the purpose of acting as agent for Indian affairs at and in the vicinity of Vincennes, has been communicating with me upon the subject all of which communications, I have inclosed. you copies. [see above] and have solicited you to either give me instructions or appoint an agent or define to me, or whomesoever you may think proper, the necessary course to be taken relative to receiving any bands of Indians who profess friendship to the U. States. It is probable they must be fed and clothed in as frugal a manner as possible and

that they must have a moderate supply of ammunition for hunting. And it will be necessary to consider whether they should be encamped inside or outside of the settlements.

I am very respectfully
Your Obt.
TH. POSEY

Honble. JAMES MONROE, *Secretary of War*

P. S. I have never been furnished with the proceedings of the treaty held last summer by Gen. Harrison at Greenville, neither do I know any thing relating to the policy of the President or department of War upon the subject of Indian Affairs.

My residence being at this place and the Indians generally coming into Vincennes obliges me to appoint an agent there.

I think Judge Benj. Parke will accept the appointment for Indian affairs at Vincennes and the country about Ft. Harrison, should you think of having one appointed. He having resided in the territory a number of years and pretty conversant in Indian transactions while Genl. Harrison was Governor will make him a proper person for the appointment.

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE INDIANA TERRITORY 26th Nov. 1814

Har. Pa. 326

SIR:

I have just received further communication from Judge Ben. Parke and Capt. Bigger [see above] of the rangers relative to Indian affairs copies of which I herewith transmit for your further information. This is the third letter to you upon the subject of Indian affairs and not having received any instructions from the department of war, relative thereto, I hope to be informed of the person or persons, or department that is, or may be authorized to attend to the business of Indian affairs in this Territory. Probably the business comes properly within the notice of the commanding officer of this district, or of such regular officers as may command at different posts or stations. Since the duties of the Governors of the Territories have been curtailed and military concerns, or opperations are vested in the regular officers, I do not feel authorized to act, except against any sudden incursions of the enemy. The present situation of the friendly disposed, as

well as the hostile Indians, demands immediate attention and for the present time, and untill the secretary of war gives proper authority or information where the proper authority is vested, I have so far as my authority extends (if I have any) authorized Judge Parke of Vincennes and a Mr. TuSaint Dubois near thereto, who has been an old Indian trader & pretty well acquainted with a great many tribes of the Indians to act in conjunction as agents for Indian affairs in that quarter. I did recommend Mr. Dubois to the department of War as a proper person to be appointed Indian agent, but I am informed he will not accept the appointment.

I am very respectfully your Obt. Servt.

TH. POSEY

JAMES MONROE, *Sect. of War*

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES November 29th, 1814

Har. Pa. 291-292

SIR:

A few days since several Miamis and Kickapoos came to Fort Harrison. Amongst the rest were Labossierre, LaFranobois and Negro Legs. Labossierre appeared to be suspicious and manifested no disposition to conciliate and it would seem that the object of his visit was to induce Little Eyes and his band to return to the Indian Country. In a private council he stated to them that [William] Conner was the only honest man that he knew amongst the Americans—that, frank and candid, he gave him the news entire—that, he had informed him, the City of Washington had been taken by the British and the President, driven from his house and that orders had been given to the people of Vincennes and the neighbouring settlements, to be ready, on the shortest notice to abandon the Coutry Labossierre added that the Indians need not be solicitous about cultivating the friendship of the Americans if they came within the settlement of the Whites, they would be exposed to ill treatment, to be thrown into prison etc. and that if they would remain back in the country the British would soon restore them to the quiet possession of their land. An Indian who says he was present at the Council, gives infor-

mation of this speech. William Conner Labossierre informant is a Brother of John Conner, formerly Interpreter for the Delawares. What employment he is in on White River I know not, —Whether this talk originated with Labossierre or whether he received it from Conner, as an Emissary of the British, is indifferent.—the manner in which he is propagating it manifests an unfriendly disposition towards the U. States. Labossierre has been orator for and a leading man amongst the Weas for many years past.

I forwarded instructions to [Joseph] Barron agreeably to my letter of the 23 inst but, before they were received, Little Eyes wishing to come down, Barron gave him permission and he is now on his way by water to this place. I will endeavour to dispose of him and his people (about 20 persons) so that they will receive no harm, and be as little expense to the Government as possible. Wishing Barron to be here, I have sent, [Michael] Bruillet, to Fort Harrison a copy of my instructions to him is inclosed. On Saturday night, last, one horse and on Sunday night five horses were taken from the Busseron settlement 25 miles distant from this place—supposed to be stolen by Indians. A party of Rangers, are in pursuit of them. But with Indians at least profesedly friendly, hunting in the neighbourhood of the frontiers, under the sanction as it is said of the Greenville Treaty, and assailed by hostile Indians—the Rangers in pursuit will be as likely to fall in with friends as enemies and a Miami will not be readily distinguished from a Potawatomy or Winebago a friendly Deleware had like to have lost his life a few days since by a party of Public Surveyors on White River the consequence of such an accident must be obvious. The Miami boundary is within five and thirty miles of our settlements between the Wabash and White River.

I have the Honor to be very respectfully Sir

Your Ob. Servt. B. PARKE

Gov. POSEY

P. S. just as I had closed the above, I rec'd your letter of the 26th inst. To advise with M. Dubois is certainly what I shall wish to do. But I repeat that if his agency should be required he can be most beneficially employed in the way I mentioned in my last—and in no other.

B. PARKE TO MICHAEL BROUILLETTE

VINCENNES, Nov. 29th, 1814

Har. Pa. 288, 289

SIR:

You will proceed without delay to Fort Harrison to receive and confer with such Indians as may come to that place. For the present no encouragement will be given to the Indians to come to that place or to any part of the Wabash Settlements, with a view of receiving presents from the Government, or any of its agents—but, such as may come to the Fort, you will receive with kindness and endeavour to detach them from the British and their emissaries in the Indian Country and to conciliate their affections towards the United States.

The object of your being placed at Fort Harrison is to obtain information of what is passing in the Indian Country and for the accomplishment of which you will use your best endeavours. Your extensive acquaintance amongst the Wabash Indians will enable you (if it can be done at all) to collect correct information of their numbers, positions, views, and the talks that may be sent them from the British or the Illinois and Mississippi Indians, and the manner in which those talks may be received—as also the supplies they may receive from the British—the channels through which and the places where, and the Tribes or persons to whom delivered. In furtherance of this, you will be furnished with a few articles of Merchandise which you will distribute as occasion may require.

There being many of our citizens out exploring the country, it will not be altogether safe for the Indians to hunt, below the boundary line. You will therefore advise them not to come below Raccoon Creek for that purpose. Such as come to Fort Harrison ought to bring a flag.

Yours respectfully

B. PARKE

MICHAEL BROUILLET *Interpreter*

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE, Ind. 6th Dec. 1814

Har. Pa. 287

SIR:

I have just received further communications from Judge

Benj. Parke of Vincennes [see above] relative to Indian affairs, copies of which I herewith inclose to you, thinking it my duty to afford you every information in my power respecting Indian affairs, until I am informed of the policy of the president, and receive instructions, or a notice to whom instructions are or may be given upon the subject. I have written several letters to you, and to Gen. Armstrong before his resignation and have not received any answer or instructions relative to Indian affairs.

I am very respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
TH. POSEY

Honble. JAMES MONROE, *Secretary of War*
CITY OF WASHINGTON

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES 7th Dec. 1814
Har. Pa. 317

SIR:

Information was received last evening from Capt. [Frederick] Sholts at Fort Harrison, from which it appears that a few days ago the principle chief now with the Vermillion Kickapoos came to that fort with strong professions of amity and good will toward the U. States. The Capt. took the chief and his wife to his quarters to lodge, and while they were asleep one of the strangers fired his piece at them through a window and killed a squaw.

The chief reported that in a few days a considerable number of her people might be expected at the Fort all friendly disposed. To receive them, as also to endeavor to patch up the unconscionable outrage of the rangers, Mr. [Touissant] Dubois sen. will set out for the Fort tomorrow. It is necessary that a prompt endeavor should be made to heal the wound occasioned by this outragious murder of the squaw. I would go to the Fort myself but I have been in bad health for some time, and the weather is now extremely inclement and probably Mr. Dubois is more competent than I am to accomplish the object in view.

Your letters of the 28th ult. and the 4th inst. I have received.

I have the honor to be with respect Sir
Your Obt. Servt.
B. PARKE (Copy)

His Excellency Gov. POSEY

B. Parke to Posey

Vincennes Dec. 21 1814

Har. Pa. 321-324

Sir:

Mr. [Touissant] Dubois returned from Fort Harrison on Sunday last. The Kickapoos chief had left the Fort two or three days after the murder of his wife—meeting at that place with some men of the same tribe. Mr. Dubois sent for them for him. He came with his family and profiting by the occurence the little Otter a Kickapoo Chief Laposure, Negro Legs and La Frambois of the Weas and Miamis, with about three hundred men women and children, also came in. Their professions were amicable and the Kickapoos accepted the present that I sent to appease his resentment for the loss of his wife. As regards the Indians, that unpleasant affair may be considered as satisfactorily settled.

Mr. Dubois represents the Indians as extremely necessitous. Their arms out of order with little or no amunition and their clothing miserable. They express a wish that some arrangement could be made that would enable them to have access to our traders and above all that they could get their arms repaired. You will judge of the propriety of the course that ought to be pursued. To hunt they must have their arms in order—to procure clothing and ammunition they must have an opportunity of vending their skins and furs. As these people have made a peace with the United States they consider that they have some claim to the privilidge that they ask and it is very certain that if they do not obtain it from us they will seek it else where. They will go to the British. The Emissaries of the latter are vigilant and are now endeavouring to reattach them to the hostile confederacy. The loss of the Tygress and Scorpion and the retreat of General [George] Izard have been communicated to them in a manner, to give them a high Idea of British prowess and to induce a belief that our affairs are in the decline. The hope of the establishment of a post, for their convenience at *Prairie Vache* on the St. Josephs near the southern extremity of Lake Michigan is still encouraged and the assurance repeated that if they would adhere to the British they should be reinstated in all their lands.

From the character of the Indians their jealousy of the

Americans and attachment for the British whilst we are at war with the latter, and their agents and traders have the means of furnishing them supplies, I consider pacific arrangements of the Government with them as mere expedients. Especially if they are not enabled to obtain their wanted supplies either in Donations from the Government or from an intercourse with our Traders. If from the Treaty, we are to consider them friendly, they ought to enjoy a portion at least of the benefits they were accustomed to derive from a state of peace.

If you should think proper to license any person to trade with the Indians, it might be advisable that they should not vend their goods below Fort Harrison. The irritation of the people from recent injuries, and their being some of the most inconsiderate and unprincipled men in the settlements on the frontiers that ever disgraced humanity, it might be unsafe for the Indians for the purpose of Trade to come below the Fort and if it should be thought proper to repair their arms a Gun Smith might be established at the same place.

The Indians appeared to be so urgent upon the subjects of Trade and getting their arms repaired that Mr. Dubois promised them that he would endeavor to obtain an answer to their application in a month or six weeks.

Totally ignorant of the views of the President I have been more particular in stateing these subjects to you. If it should comport with the views of the Government to grant the request of the Indians possibly they might be as conveniently accommodated at Fort Wayne or the Deleware Towns as at Fort Harrison.

Mr. Dubois volunteered to go to Fort Harrison but as he was detained some days longer than I expected he would have been, I think he ought to have an allowance especially as I consider his services meritorious. He was absent ten days. I had to send Mr. [Joseph] Barron to interpret for him with him—he has been accustomed to receive an extra allowance for extra services of this kind. He was also employed with Capt. [Pierre] Andre in the month of November twenty-one days. During Barrons absence, I had to employ a man to act for him here promising to recommend him to you for such wages as you might think proper to allow for Dubois. I would mention three dollars per day and Barron one dollar

and the necessary expenses of each and to the other Mr. Payette fifty cents per day. The several claims are submitted for your consideration.

Your letter of the 11th inst. has been received. A Ranger of Capt. [Frederick] Sholtes company is suspected of having murdered the Kickapoo squaw. He is in close confinement at the Fort—whether he will be tried by a court martial or by our Territorial Court I know not. From a late act of the Legislature it would seem that I have no authority to interfere. But however aggravated his guilt or decisive the proof I entertain no expectation from past experience of his being punished. Since my residence here several outragous murders have been committed on the Indians—No one has been punished. In one very clear case, the Grand Jury refused to find a Bill. These circumstances induced me to endeavor to effect a prompt accommodation according to the Indian mode, with the Kickapoos and it is highly probable that it is all the redress they will ever receive.

I have the honor to be very respectfully
Your Obt. Servant
B. PARKE

GOV. POSEY

POSEY TO B. PARKE

JEFFERSONVILLE 25th, Dec. 1814

Har. Pa. 318-320

SIR:

Yours of the 21 inst [see above] I received by last mail and shall transmit a copy to the secretary of war. I have not received answers to any of my communications to the department of war upon Indian affairs, and am at a loss to imagine a reason. Should it be the opinion of the President or secretary of war that Governor of the Territory already possess sufficient authority—clothed with the powers of agency relative to the superintendency of Indian affairs yet it would be necessary to receive instructions as relates to the policy of the Gen. Government toward the Indians, particularly those tribes who come in with professions of friendship. I know nothing of the results or conditions of the treaty which took place last summer at Greenville. It shurely will be the best policy and most conducive to the public good under existing circumstances (so large a number of Indians having come in with friendly overtures to take shelter under our government) to

favor their friendly offers, and to aid and assist them. If we neglect or reject them the British emisaries and hostile tribes will be actively engaged in their endeavours to gain them over to join our enemy. From what I can learn, there are at present among those Indians who have come in as friends several Indians trying to effect this purpose.

You say three hundred have lately come into Vincennes and that you have directed they shall be encamped at or near Fort Harrison, where all that have, or may come in to your parts, are ordered to rendezuous., to meet with such supplies as can be procured for them. I know of no arrangements made by the Gen. Government to supply the Indians. There is a law to supply the Indians. There is a law of Congress to license persons to trade with the Indians, within their own limits; and there is a law of the Territory to license persons to trade with them, within the part of the Territory to which the Indian title has been extinguished. I shall grant a license under the Territorial law, to a person to trade with them at Fort Harrison, but wish you to recommend a suitable person. The Indians may expect some presents. They must be of a very partial nature, untill I can hear from the Gen. Government. I hope Government will make provision for the friendly Indians and appoint some particular station where they may receive supplies.

With respect to a compensation to Mr. Dubois and others, who have or may be engaged in Indian affairs, I will endeavor to be informed upon that subject, and will give you information. I am very happy to find that Mr. Dubois has had the address to appease and bring about a reconciliation by a suitable present to the chief whose wife was murdered by the U. S. Ranger. I hope the fellow will meet a punishment justly due him, for perpetrating such a horrid crime.

I have already vested you with such authority as I possess, which from a want of information or instructions from the Gen. Government, I am not able to define, particularly as to the policy to be observed. I am well assured you will do all in your power to promote the interest of the U. States.

I am very respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
TH. POSEY

Honble. Judge BEN. PARKE Vincennes (Copy)

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE 27th Dec. 1814

Har. Pa. 315, 316

SIR:

I herewith inclose to you sundry documents, which I think essential that you and the President should see. I have written several letters to you which I thought necessary that you should be made acquainted with their contents. The Indian affairs in this Territory are becoming very important and require the attention of the Gen. Government. I am entirely unacquainted with the policy to be observed toward the Indian tribes, who are daily coming in. I know of no provision made to afford supplies in this Territory and should they not meet with supplies and attention from our Government they most assuredly will go to the enemy who are ready to supply them and are making every exertion to gain them over. I have prevailed with Judge [Benjamin] Parke who resides in the quarter where the Indians generally come in, to use his exertions to conciliate their affections, and furnish them occasionally with provisions and clothing—such articles as they are really in great need of and which probably may be obtained from the merchants of Vincennes. The whole of them will be encamped at or near Ft. Harrison with liberty to hunt on the frontiers and trade with such person as I shall license for the purpose under a Territorial law. They are at present in a very distressed situation, as you may observe from Judge Parke's letter. There are about twenty families come into, or near Valony. I have been informed they are encamped on Sandy Creek [see Nov. 23 above], fifteen or twenty miles north of Valony about 70 or 80 miles from this, in Washington county. They request to be allowed to hunt and trade. The inhabitants on the frontiers appear to be well satisfied that they should remain there, thinking it will afford a degree of safety from the depredations of the hostile Indians. I believe I shall license some person to trade with them. Mr. Dubois will give every assistance in his power to Judge Parke.

I am very Respectfully
your obt. Servt.
TH. POSEY

Hon. JAMES MONROE, *Sec. of War*

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE IND. TER. 14th Jan. 1815

Har. Pa. 338-340

SIR:

Your letter of the 22nd Ult. came to hand by last mail, the contents of which shall be attended to. I have in sundry letters addressed to the department of war, been very particular to give information as relates to Indian affairs in this Territory. One of the 16th Sept. last to Genl. Armstrong and to yourself one of the 3rd Nov. the 12th 26th and 28th one of the 6th Dec. and of the 27th [see above]. I should not feel concerned were I certain those letters or any of them reached the department of War, but from no acknowledgement of the receipt of any of them, I am fearfull they have miscarried.

Your letter of the 22nd Ult. [not found] mentions that "It has been intimated to this Dept. that several of the hostile tribes within the neighbourhood of your Territory are desirous of renewing with the United States a state of peace."

The information conveyed in my letters was respecting Indians that had actually come into our settlements with their families with a desire of being received upon friendly terms and treated in a friendly manner in affording [a sheet gone here]

P. S.

I am informed by the Honble. Jonathan Jennings representative from this Territory in the House of Representatives in Congress that he had it from the Department of War, that not more than one Maj. Genl. and two Brigadiers will be commissioned for the Militia of this Territory. In that case I recommend Joseph Bartholomew as Maj. Gen. Ind Militia and James Dill for the Eastern half of the Territory and Walter Wilson for the Western half of the Territory as Brigadiers Ind. Militia.

T. P.

PIERRE ANDRE TO POSEY

VINCENNES 8th Feb. 1815

Har. Pa. 346, 347

DEAR SIR:

I herein give you the information received by Lt. [Hyacinth] Lasselle respecting the Indians. An Indian states to

Lt. Laselle that the Indians have received fifty cags of powder, lead and flints in proportion at the St. Josephs and he was also informed by one of the Kickapoos that in the course of six weeks it was the intention of the Indians to make an attack on Ft. Harrison and would return to the British immediately after the attack. He heard one of the Miami Indians also observe on the parade one day on seeing the men parade, that they should not do it longer than six weeks. He was also informed by the Indian called Parish Constance that Lapoosier had received three invitations from the British since last fall, Lapoosier has also invited Little Eyes with his party to go and join him at his camp.

One of the Kickapoos has told an old Frenchman who he considered as a particular friend that he will give him information when the Indians intend making the attack on the fort. The Indians are somewhat dissatisfied that Government has not given presents except what they purchase with their peltry.

I have two Indians in confinement at the Garrison for misbehaving themselves or in consequence of their having attempted to kill me.

I am with respect
Your Humble Servt.

PIERRE ANDRIE, *Capt. U. S. Rangers* (Copy)

GOV. POSEY, JEFFERSONVILLE

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES Feb. 15, 1815

Har. Pa. 349-352

SIR:

I returned from Corydon on the night of the 12 inst. During my absence six horses were taken from the other side of the river immediately opposite the village supposed to be stolen by the Indians. A short time since three Potawatomies came to Ft. Harrison one of whom for his indolence and manners was chastised by the Commanding Officer, leaving the fort with the others, he wounded several cattle within view of the Fort and escaped. The other two were taken, but upon the advice of M. [Touissaint] Dubois were afterwards discharged. On the afternoon of Sunday last a small

party of Indians same to Busseron settlement, killed a man, wounded another badly and took two boys prisoners. A man is also missing from the same settlement supposed to be killed or taken. It is more than probable that this mischief was done by the Potawatomies, but as Little Eyes and his party and other bands of the Miamies were in the neighborhood of the frontiers and might be fallen in with by some of our scouts, I directed the interpreter as soon I learned the above to go to Little Eyes and advise him of what had happened and for him and the other Miamis to remove to the neighbourhood of the Delawares on White river. I have often admonished the Miamis of the danger of hunting near the frontier settlements (see my instructions to Brouilette Nov. 29th). As I had no evidence of the Miamis having committeed an act of hostility since the treaty I thought that justice and humanity required this. I fear the precaution may be useless as I am since informed that a considerable party of Citizens rendezvoused and marched yesterday with the avowed purpose of exterminating Little Eyes party and other bands friends or foes, within their reach. The injuries which the Indians have inflicted on the inhabitants of the frontiers are sufficient to exasperate them to a high degree, but that men having some pretensions to civilization and professing to be Christians should under any circumstances manifest such a Diabolical disposition can scarcely be believed. Yet I am told that a preacher of the Gospel is at the head of this party of Madmen.

I herewith enclose you a letter I have received from Lieut. [Hyacinth] Lasselle. I think it better to send you the Original than to attempt any translation. I consider it important not that I believe there is any probability that the English will aid the Indians with Cannon in an attack on Ft. Harrison, or that there are five thousand Indian warriors at St. Joseph, Chicago, and Udiowaky?, but it shows the diligence and zeal of the agent and party and of that power in disseminating amongst the Indians whatever will have the tendency of strengthening their prejudice and increasing their irritation against the U. States. It is highly probable that Little Eyes is correct as regards the Miamis. What motive could the man have in misrepresenting the people of his own nation that Labossieur is a British partisan. I have been convinced for three months

but whatever the feelings and views of the Miamis may be, situated as they are, in respect to our settlements, and the hostile Indians they cannot remain neutral. They cannot muster more than four hundred warriors and are unable to oppose their hostile Neighbors the Potawatomies. Besides the hostile parties that attack the frontiers commonly retreat through their country, to excite suspicions against and to draw our scouts amongst them. They must be removed from the Country, and taken under the immediate protection of the Un. States or they will shortly in all probability be arranged with the hostile Indians against us. With respect to stolen horses. It appears that several that have been taken since the treaty are in the possession of the Miamis and Kickapoos. They allege that they procured them from the Potawatomies. It may be so. I have urged them to bring in all that have been taken since that period, and that their excuse of having purchased them from the Potawatomies was inadmissable.

Agreeably to your instructions I have employed a Gun Smith to work for the friendly Indians. You will see the terms upon which he is engaged and the instructions under which he is to work for the enclosed notes to Brooks & Broulette.

I have the honor to be with great respect
Your Obedient Servant.
B. PARKE

His Excellency Gov. POSEY

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE 18th Feby 1815

Har. Pa. 345

SIR:

Your letter of the 7th Dec. 1814 I have received by the last mail. It was addressed to me at Kaskaskia and no doubt has been the rounds of several hundred miles, with a detention at the several post offices. I am sorry it did not come to hand in due time it would have been very satisfactory and is so at the present time as having instruction from the Department of War relative to Indian affairs, tho I have acted pretty much in conformety to the instructions upon my own responsibility, but shall now proceed with confidence.

It is to be apprehended that the British will set the Indians on our frontier settlements early in the ensuing spring. I herewith enclose you a copy of a letter received within a few

days from Capt. Pierre Andre [Feb. 8 above] in command at Fort Harrison.

The friendly Indians are generally encamped in the neighbourhood of Ft. Harrison and a few near Valony and the frontier of Franklin county. I have licensed proper charactors to trade with them. The British are using every endeavor to draw them off from us.

Your instructions at any time will be gladly received, and executed as promptly as possible.

I am with great respet.
Your Obt. Servant
TH. POSEY

Hon. JAMES MONROE *Sec. of War*

P. S. I shall take the necessary steps to be prepared for any invasion of the Indians on the frontiers of this Territory.

The friendly Indians have had some partial presents made them, but they are more unhappy at being deprived from getting whiskey than any other circumstance.

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE 21st Feb. 1815

Har. Pa. 348

SIR:

I herewith enclose to you a copy of a letter just received from Judge B. Parke [Feb. 15 above] merely to show you the indefatigable industry of British agents among the Indians.

Should the Indians make their threatened attack I have no doubt we shall be prepared to receive them. I have ordered a detail of militia to be held in readiness to march at the shortest notice. The Rangers and regulars at Vincennes, Fort Harrison and the frontiers of the Territory are at present under the command of Maj. Zachary Taylor of the U. S. Infantry. He is a very attentive officer and will do his duty.

I should be happy to hear that an expedition was concerted to undertake an enterprise up the Mississippi against the British and Indians that may be embodying to make a stroke upon our frontiers.

I am very respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
TH. POSEY

Honble. Col. JAMES MONROE, *Sect. of War*
CITY OF WASHINGTON

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES May, 10, 1815

Har. Pa. 334

SIR:

The regular soldiers in Garrison at this place were mostly enlisted for the war, and I suppose will shortly be discharged. One Company of Rangers was discharged the beginning of this month. The balance of that Corps that is now in this quarter must be discharged in about six weeks. What then will become of Fort Harrison? As to the Fort at this place it might be abandoned with propriety, but I would respectfully suggest the necessity of Fort Harrison being occupied. Possibly it might be best to remove the Fort to this boundary at Raccoon Creek or the Vermillion River. I have heard that Col. [James] Miller with his Regt. is on his march to one of the Territories. Probably you may see him and he may have authority to arrange in respect to the above. I have just written to Col. [William] Russell who is still at St. Louis, on the Subject.

Respectfully,
Your Obedient Servant
B. PARKE

His Excelency Gov. POSEY

P. S. If it were possible for you to visit us and remain here a few weeks, I am confident it would be highly beneficial to this part of the Territory.

LAFRAMBOISE TO PARKE

FORT HARRISON May 17, 1815

Har. Pa. 332

MY FATHER:

I am sorry to tell you that the chiefs who were sent with your speech to the Patawatomies and Kickapoos have returned—for this reason—I knew that the British have invited them to their country and that they were gone.

My father—I listen with pleasure to your speech. It would be unnecessary for us to go to the Kickapoos and Potawatomies knowing they could tell us nothing but lies.

My father—You know that the Kickapoos and Potawatomies told you at Vincennes that they had sent and Express to

their nations for you—and that they consented to send the express at Fort Harrison. They told you a lie.

My father—I believe that the British have sent for the Indians to inform them that peace has been made between the U. S. and Great Britain.

My father—the British sent for us (the Weas)—we are determined not to go.

LAFRAMBOISE

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES May 19 1815

Har. Pa. 343

SIR:

I have just received an Express from Fort Harrison by which I am informed that the Kickapoos and Potawatomies are gone to the British. LaFrambois says that the Miamis will not go. I will send you a copy of his speech [see May 17 above] by next mail and which I have not time now to copy as the mail is closing. I am now satisfied that my arrangement with the Indians will end in nothing.

I have the honor to be respectfully sir Your Obt. Servant.

B. PARKE

GOV. POSEY

P. S. Your letter of the 12 inst. is received.

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES May 25th 1815

Har. Pa. 359-361

SIR:

I informed you in my letter of the 18th inst. of the arrival of the Owl and two other Indians. The one his son, the other called Popping Dick [see index McGowan]. I put them in a house where I was in hopes they would be safe. Friday night a gun was fired through the door which wounded Dick in the foot. He was sent to the fort and is under the care of the surgeon. The Owl and his son I took to my own house. A trader starting for Fort Harrison on Monday, I got them privately to his boat and was in hopes of being rid of them. The trader finding it as he thought, dangerous to proceed returned next morning. I shall have some difficulty in getting them off

as I have been informed over and over that all the road from this to the frontier are constantly patroled for the purpose of intercepting and destroying these people on their return. This is a sad state of society and such as I hope never again to witness. Believing that some parties of citizens might probably attempt to do some injury to the friendly Indians, I apprized them of it, advised them to remove which they were to do on Monday. Since I was told that a large party of citizens have passed the frontiers determined to put to death every Indian they meet. I do not believe that they will find the Weas.

The Owl informs me that he heard the same reports in the Indian country of which I have lately informed you that the Kickapoos and Potawatomies are not to be relyed on and that Pecon is clearly for and gone to the English.

I enclose you a letter I have just received from the Col. [William] Russell. As you are in full possession of all the information relative to the situation of affairs here you will determine on the measures it is necessary to adopt. [Pierre] Andre's Company was discharged the first of this month but I believe he and his Lieut. [Hyacinth] Lassalle would enter again; if necessary could soon get his company together. [Frederick] Sholts I believe intends to leave the Service. He has promised me to write you respecting his Company.

The party mentioned by Labousiur was the one that defeated Mr. Morrison. Twenty-five of them returned by Labosiurs camp with four horses and some other plunder of Morrison's Camp. and Mr. Boyez of this place prisoner thay had taken another prisoner but being badly wounded they Tomhawked him. One of Morrisons party is still not accounted for. Sin-ma-dall [Six Medals] mentioned by Labossiur is a son of the Five Medals who signed the Treaty at Greenville.

I most earnestly repeat my request that you will immediately visit this part of the Territory. I assure you I think it indispensibly necessary and am happy to learn that your health is so completely restored that you could do it without the least personal inconvenience.

Yours respectfully
B. PARKE

Governor POSEY

P. S.

Since writing the above a man has come in who had been

with the party of citizens I have mentioned. He left them (from 60 to 100 in no.) beyond the frontiers on the trail of the retreating enemy Indians and determined to follow them till last night. If in this pursuit friendly Indians be fallen in with they cannot be readily distinguished from Enemy Indians. Of the danger to which they ought to subjected on such occasions I have repeatedly informed them and from it endeavored to convince them of the necessity of active executions on their part to prevent the approach of the hostile Indians. But I believe if they have committed no act of hostility it is very certain that they have never raised hands to oppose the passage through their county of the hostile Indians from the upper country. However they have frequently given information at Fort Harrison of some approach.

B. Parke to Posey

Vincennes, May 25, 1815 Evening

Har. Pa. 337

Sir:

I do not know that as Governor you have authority to order Militia into the Service of the U. S. and you will determine whether Col. [William] Russells Letter confers any.

As to my opinion, I really think that two companies ought to be immediately raised for the protection of the Wabash settlements. Possibly one, with [Frederick] Sholts Company as a mere defensive measure might answer.

If you should determine to call any men into service please state specially the terms and conditions upon which they are to serve. The period of service—pay—whether found—or to be found by the public in rations—to be mounted or dismounted—and the number officers—non-commissioned officers and privates to a company.

Sholts' Company as I have informed you goes out of service the beginning of July. The Captain wishes me to inform you that although he is desirous of quitting the Service he will if necessary continue for a term longer. He can have a company immediately after his Ranger command expires. I think him a good officer as much so at least, as any you will probably get. He says that his Lieut. [Enoch] Blasdel will continue if desired. He is a clever fellow.

Captain [Pierre] Andre and Lieut [Hyacinth] Lasselle have called upon us and requested me to inform you that they will

enter again with pleasure. I believe you could not get two better men here. If desired they can have a company in two or three days. The other Subaltern [Harvey] Gregg Wd. join them, at a word if notified of it.

John F. Myers and Pierre Laplante have requested me to mention them as desirous of raising a company of volunteers for the defence of the frontiers. The former, formerly belonged to Captain [William] Perry's Rangers and the latter to [Parmemis] Beckes and Andres. They think that they could raise a company with ease. How well they would officer one I do not know. Captain Sholts thinks it would not do.

After the first next month of this Ranger Corps, Sholts Company only, continues in service there ought to be from fifty to one hundred men in Garrison at Fort Harrison.

Should Militia be called for and it be so arranged it would be much the best that they should be furnished by the publick, Rangers furnishing themselves is an abominable feature in that system and the contractor here says he is fully competent to furnish what will be necessary for two companies.

Yours respectfully

B. PARKE

Governor POSEY

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE IND. TER. 30th May, 1815

Har. Pa. 330

SIR:

I herewith inclose sundry documents recently received from Judge B. Parke who acts as deputy Indian Agent at Vincennes, Fort Harrison etc. You will observe from those documents that our frontier is very much infested by hostile Indians. I am fearful from information received through various channels that the Indians will be extremely troublesome. Scouting parties are not sufficient to keep them under; probably it will be necessary to send a considerable force into the Indian country to bring them to a right understanding. This is a measure to be considered by the department of war. Certain it is, that some speedy and effectual measures should be adopted to give security to our frontier settlers. True it is, that I could and have at sundry times ordred out the Militia to scour along the frontiers, but this mode proved ineffectual.

The time of service of the rangers has generally expired and we have no regular forces, You will please to write me upon the foregoing subjects.

I have the honor to be with great respect.

Your Obedient Servant.

TH. POSEY

Honbl. the Acting Sect. of War,
CITY OF WASHINGTON

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE INDIANA TERRITORY August 3rd, 1815

Har. Pa. 341-342

SIR:

The rangers having served the time for which they were raised and being discharged and the hostile bands of Indians committing depredations upon our defenceless inhabitants, I ordered several companies of Militia to guard the frontiers, but before they were organized I received a requisition from Col. [William] Russell (who was in command of this district) to have two complete companies of mounted Militia to supply the place of the rangers. I then declined ordering out all the Militia infantry and have agreeably to the requisition raised two volunteer companies of mounted Militia to serve six months except sooner discharged. As soon as they were mustered into service the muster-rolls were sent on to the commandant at St. Louis supposing it to be the proper channel to report through and the commandant (Col. Russell) returned the muster-rolls. It being necessary they should be reported to the department of war through some channels, I have herewith enclosed them accordingly The Mounted volunteers above mentioned cannot furnish themselves with rations and forage. Col. Russell gave orders that the contractor should furnish rations but has made no arrangement for supplying forage. I could wish to have instructions upon that head and it will be necessary that they should be attended in case of sickness by a physician. The commandant at St. Louis would give no instructions relative to forage or medical aid.

I am very respect. your Obt. Ser

TH. POSEY

Acting Sect. of War, CITY OF WASHINGTON

P. S. The Indians heretofore hostile, still discover a very inveterate & hostile disposition. I am of opinion nothing sat-

isfactory will take place with them as to a peaceful disposition until they are humbled.

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES Nov. 1st, 1815

Har. Pa. 353-356

SIR:

On the 19th Ult. I informed you of my intention of visiting the Weas and Vermillion Kickapoos. I saw all the Chiefs but one and was much gratified with their orderly conduct and the desire they manifested of attoning for their past errors and misconduct. They now appear to be sensible of the benefits resulting from a state of peace and the interest they have in preserving it.

A chief of the Vermillion Kickapoos treated with the Commissioners, and made peace at Portage Des Sioux, were on their way to the Embarrass and Sangamond, the former a branch of the Wabash, the latter of the Illinois and both in the adjoining Territory. Those on the Embarass will be about one and those on the Sangamond not more than three days Journey from Fort Harrison. He further states that on their arrival on those waters for their Winters hunt a deputation of their Chiefs intended to visit me. There are still too many exasperated, unprincipled men in those settlements to render it safe for the Indians to come to this place. And should the Chiefs of that Tribe really wish to see me, I will meet them at the Fort. They however properly belong to Gov. [Ninian] Edward's agency and I am ignorant of the arrangements that have been made at Portage des Sioux.

The same chief informed me that he had understood that the Shawneese and other adherents of the Prophet intended to re-establish themselves at Tippecanoe. Should those miscreants return to that place it will be for the purpose of exciting mischief and dissentions amongst the Wabash Indians.

In the spring of 1812 a miserable remnant of the Pyankashaws residing in the neighbourhood of this place were for their safety advised to remove back into the Indian Country. They settled on the neighbourhood of the Kickapoos. Russels expedition drove them from thence. They then went to the Missouri where they were taken prisoners by a detachment of Rangers and Militia. They have since been under the protection of and I believe subsisted by the U. State in the Mis-

souri Ty. They now earnestly solicit to return to their old hunting grounds on the Embarrass and little Wabash and have sent me a talk to obtain permission for that purpose. They have I believe a considerable Tract of Country between the lands they sold the United States and the lands of the Kickapoos but all in the Illinois Territory. I shall therefore not give the permission solicited unless instructed so to do. Were they permitted to return all public business might be easily dispatched with them, as also the Prairie Kickapoos at Ft. Harrison, as it now is with the Weas and Vermillion Kickapoos.

Maj. [Willoughby] Morgan occupying Fort Harrison with two companies it is no longer convenient for the interpreter and Gunsmith to remain in it. I have purchased near the Fort a small Cabin, part finished completing that and building another adjoining it for a shop accommodation will be afforded them. The house will also serve as a place of rendezvous for the Indians who resort to that place. On Saturday last Maj. Morgan discharged the Militia Rangers raised under the requisition of Col. Russell a few months since.

Whilst the Rangers were in Service, I had to hire an express but in a single case, the Officers of that Corps kindly furnished me men for that service. I had occasion frequently for them. Scarcely a week elapsed that I did not receive a communication from the Indians that required attention as it would not be prudent for [Michel] Broulette to send an Indian messenger to me, it will scarcely be possible for him to get an express at the Fort. And to depend on transient persons would not comprt with the Public Interest. I could wish to engage a man for three five or six months upon the terms on which the rangers were enlisted. Until January he ought to go to the Fort and return weekly during the frosts and high waters of the winter and spring once in two weeks. I believe it would be as cheap, cheaper to the Government than hireing men as occasion may require and would insure a safe and expeditious mode of transmiting inteligence to and from the Indian Country.

The proposition is respectfully submitted for your determination.

I am respectfully Sir your
Obe. Servant.

B. PARKE

His Excellency Gov. POSEY

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE IND. TER. 12 Nov. 1815

Har. Pa. 357

SIR:

Thinking it necessary that the department of war should be made acquainted with the present temper and disposition of the Indians within my district, I herewith enclose to you a copy of a letter from Judge B. Parke [Nov. 1 above], who I have been under the necessity of employing as an assistant in Indian affairs owing to the dispersed situation of the Indians at different stations upon our frontiers. In addition to Judge Parke's letter, I inform you that all the tribes at other stations as well as Ft. Harrison are very amiably disposed. All the friendly Indians have been greatly distressed for the want of provision and to relieve their distresses only in a moderate degree, I have given them partial supplies, which I presume will meet the approbation of Government. I have licensed Traders to furnish the Indians at the different stations and I am in hopes they will be enabled to furnish themselves considerably if not altogether by hunting. In all the accounts which I have sanctioned and sent on to the department of War, I have endeavored to economise as much as possible and have endeavored to explain the necessity of furnishing the several articles charged by accompanying documents where they were not sufficiently explained in the account.

I am with great respect
Your Humble Servt.

TH. POSEY

Honble. WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD
CITY OF WASHINGTON

POSEY TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JEFFERSONVILLE Dec 4 1815

Mss. in Sec. of State's Office

REGULAR MESSAGE

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council and of the House of Representatives:

The period for the meeting of the legislature of the territory has once more arrived, and it is with the most heartfelt

satisfaction that I now congratulate you, that since your last meeting, a bloody war has been terminated by an honorable peace, the blessings of which have been diffused and felt throughout our beloved country. We cannot be too grateful to that providence, in whose hands are the destinies of nations, that he has blessed our efforts in a just and arduous struggle, with a powerful and ambitious enemy, and finally crowned them with the most glorious success. This event has furnished a new era in our history, from which the most flattering presages may be drawn; it has taught us confidence in ourselves, and demonstrated the efficiency of a free government in war, as well as in peace. These political blessings which are of a nature so interesting and important, were not obtained but at the expense of blood and treasure and individual privation; these however are the natural concomitants of war, and should be cheerfully submitted to, in order to insure great national objects. In no section of the union is there more cause for rejoicing at the restoration of peace than in this territory. A cruel and bloodthirsty enemy, who border on our frontier, and whose mode of warfare is the indiscriminate slaughter of the infants, the aged, and the helpless part of the community, have agreed to bury the tomahawk, and once more live with us in the bonds of friendship. From this event has flowed and is still flowing the most lasting benefits to our country; an emigration which is rapidly populating our fertile lands, and which in a little time will enable us to be admitted into the political family of the union as an independent state.

Permit me to recommend to the legislature the propriety as well as justice of imposing as moderate taxes on the emigrants to the territory as may be compatible with the public interest. Most of them have removed from a great distance, at a considerable expense. They have to encounter many difficulties in opening their farms for cultivation, before they can derive a support, much more a profit from them; and consequently their ability will be excused from contributing largely for a short time to the public exigencies. These circumstances are not unknown to you gentlemen, and I make no doubt when you take up the subject of taxation you will give them that consideration which their importance merits.

The present seems to be a favorable time to turn your attention to the promotion of education and the improvement of the

state of roads and highways. Both of these subjects have been already acted on. By reviving them a knowledge of their practical operation, may demonstrate the necessity of making alterations and improvements that will be extensively useful.

A revision of the territorial laws is highly necessary and should be taken up as early in the session as possible. There have not been for some time any of the acts of 1808 or 1810 to distribute to justices of the peace and others who were entitled to them; in fact from their detached and deranged situation, the laws have become complicated and difficult to be searched out and properly understood.

Every dictate of prudence recommends an amendment to the militia system, so as to render it free from any unnecessary delay in its operation, and to secure by more certain and adequate punishments, prompt obedience to such requisitions as emergencies may from time to time require.

I cannot close this communication, without expressing my confidence in a wise and honorable result to your deliberations, and assurances of the faithful zeal with which my coöperating duties will be discharged; invoking at the same time the blessings of Heaven on our beloved country.

TH. POSEY

HARRISON TO CONGRESS

CINCINNATI December 20, 1815

Am. Sta. Pa. Mil. Af. I, 650

In a letter which I had the honor to receive from Mr. Fisk, who was the chairman of a committee appointed, in the spring of 1814, to inquire into the complaints of improper interferences with the contractors by the commanding generals, and which letter was dated August 3d, 1814, he says, that he "had formed an unfavorable opinion of me, from some statements which had been made to the committee, supported by documents, chiefly my own letters, substantiating the following facts, viz: that, in a letter addressed by me to the contractor Mr. [B. G.] Orr, about the 24th of June, 1813, I informed him that I had provisions enought on hand for fourteen thousand men for one year, that about the 24th of August of the same year, I made a large requisition upon him for supplies, which, in consequence of the former letter, he was unable to furnish,

and that I had also caused large purchases to be made by the commissaries of the army after the said 24th of June, and that, notwithstanding all this, the army wanted provisions at Malden, and on the expedition to the Moravian towns." Never was there a more artful combination of truth and falsehood than this statement contains. The army did not want provisions at Malden; it remained at that place but one night. The troops had drawn provisions for that and the following day, and there were at least eighty thousand rations on board the vessels, at the wharfs, at the distance of only one hundred yards from the encampment. I should indeed but illy have deserved the situation which I occupied if I had invaded an enemy's country without a single day's provisions for my troops. Could I, for a moment, have preserved the confidence of a single man in the army under such circumstances? What would have been the feelings of the volunteers, and their venerable and patriotic leader? Would not the latter have denounced me immediately to the Government as entirely incompetent to the command? And yet I do know that, notwithstanding the army did want provisions when operating on the Thames, so entirely evident was this want beyond exertions of mine to prevent, that Governor Shelby, who was intimately acquainted with all my plans, and with the whole course of my conduct has continued to speak of me, and to write of me, in a manner far (I must acknowledge) beyond either my merits or pretensions. His letters to the President will prove this. I shall advance nothing in this statement without adducing evidence in support of it, although the statement which I shall make will be so consistent that I trust it would, of itself, have carried conviction to the minds of the committee. I ask them, therefore, to refer to my official account of the operations at Detroit, and upon the Thames, in which it is stated that the vessels which had been sent back from Malden for provisions had been driven to the lower end of the lake, by a storm, and that they had not arrived at that time, nor, indeed, did they arrive until after I had sailed for Buffalo. Upon what, then, could the army, the prisoners, the Indians, with whom I was treating, and the inhabitants of Detroit, a part of whom I was obliged to supply, subsist from the 27th of September to the 12th or 15th of October, but upon the provisions which were taken over with the troops? I

acknowledge that they were not well supplied, but the issues could not have been less than seven thousand rations per diem. From the following statement it will appear that the contractors, and not me, were to blame for the deficiency of provisions, and that if I had relied entirely upon them the army would have starved. I cannot find in any of my letters to the contractors, that I ever said I had provisions for fourteen thousand men for one year. In the letter of the 20th of June, the paragraph in relation to this subject stands thus: "there is, I imagine, full as much provisions on hand, the property of the United States, as will be wanted for the campaign, some fresh beef excepted."

In the letter of the 22d of June, I state, that "there will be quite provisions enough for all the troops that are to be employed at least until the 1st of December." The difference between the statement is, however, not at all material to the argument, since I broadly acknowledge that I not only directed the contractor to procure no provisions for the campaign, but complained to the Secretary of War that he had made considerable purchases at Cleveland. By referring to a map of the State of Ohio, the movements of the northwestern army on the three lines of operation leading from the first to the second military base may be traced as follows, viz: the right line ascending the Scioto river from Delaware and descending Sandusky river to Upper and then to Lower Sandusky. The left taking the direction of that branch of the Miami of the Ohio which interlocks with the Miami of the lake, crossed the Portage between them, and descended the latter river to Fort Meigs. I shall advance nothing in this statement but what is supported by an original document sent with it, or which will be confiremed by the persons to whom I shall refer, and who are within reach of the committee. For the quantity of provisions on hand at the date of my letter to Mr. Orr, 24th June, see original returns of the commissaries, marked No. 1. I have no return by me of the quantity of provisions on hand at Fort Meigs in June, 1813, but the deposition of Captain [William] Oliver, the commissary, accompanying this, will furnish it. My estimate is eight hundred barrels of flour and a much larger quantity of meat. If this estimate is correct, we have on the left and centre lines, and at Fort Meigs, which terminated them, flour equal to nine hundred and forty thou-

sand rations, and half that number of rations of salted meat. The above provisions were purchased under a particular order from the Secretary of War. These facts can be ascertained by reference to the War Office and Colonel [James] Morrison, and the honorable Mr. Creighton. Admitting that of this quantity there had been consumed, on the 24th of June, 1813, four hundred thousand rations, which is a large allowance, there will remain for this line, one million five hundred thousand of all the component parts of the rations, meat excepted, for a considerable quantity of the meat procured for this line had been driven to Fort Meigs in the preceding winter, and there salted.

From these facts it will be admitted that, on the 22d June, 1813, I was authorized to say we had provisions enough on hand for the campaign. But by what sad reverses were these bright prospects so blasted that it became necessary to purchase more provisions, and in August to call upon the contractors for a large supply? From the affidavit of Mr. Piatt, and from the personal evidence which he will give to the committee, it will be seen that it is not true that provisions were purchased by the commissaries of the army after the month of June, and before the month of September, excepting some beef cattle, to no great amount, to make the other component parts of the rations on hand complete rations. The call upon the contractor was rendered necessary from the following circumstances: The provisions on the left line were brought from the Miami country, and deposited at St. Mary's on the river of that name, and at Amanda, on the Auglaize, (called on the map Tawa town) and boats were prepared at each of those places to take them for fort Meigs. The greater part of the boats were upon the arrival of General [Green] Clay's brigade of Kentucky militia in the latter end of April, and by that officer very properly taken to convey his troops to the relief of fort Meigs, then besieged by the enemy. Part of the flour was, however, taken down as far as Fort Winchester, and there left, that the troops might be unincumbered with it in their approach to the enemy. After the siege of fort Meigs was raised, orders were given to provide other boats at St. Mary's and Amanda, (those which had descended could not be taken back) and when I wrote to the contractors, on the 22d of June, I had still strong hopes that, by the usual re-

currence of a fresh at that season, the provisions might be brought down. In this hope I was, however, disappointed. Mr. Piatt knows better than I do how much of it reached fort Meigs. My own belief is that a very few barrels of that which was deposited at Fort Winchester arrived, and that in a damaged state. Very early in the spring a large deposite of flour had been made at fort Meigs; to that place also, large droves of hogs and beeves were driven from Urbana and Franklinton. The preservation of this provision engaged my early and particular attention. The flour was put under cover before the sick were sheltered in any other way than by tents; barrels were ordered to be prepared for the pork and beef; but, as it was necessary to salt it before these could be made ready, the meat was put in large vats which were deemed safe, as ship carpenters were employed to make and calk them. Notwithstanding all my personal care and attention, however, a great part of the flour as well as the meat spoiled. During the siege of fort Meigs the covering of the flour was destroyed by the enemy's shot, and a great number of the barrels shattered, and the whole exposed to the continued rains which fell for several weeks. Apprised of this circumstance, I directed that it should be overhauled, sifted and repacked, and as much as possible baked into biscuits. This business was in full operation when the enemy made their second appearance, and caused it to be suspended. Upon the final report of the state of the provisions at fort Meigs in August, I found that a considerable quantity of the flour had been destroyed. A great deal of the salted meat was also spoiled, supposed to be occasioned by the shot from the enemy's batteries causing the reservoirs to leak. The garrison, too, had been obliged to use the salt meat contrary to my intention, as the communication was intercepted, and the fresh beef could not be taken to them. The supplies upon the right wing had also suffered very materially. The flour was principally purchased in the neighborhood of Chilicothe, from whence it was taken in wagons to Franklinton, Delaware; from those places to Norton; from Norton to Upper Sandusky, and from that to Lower Sandusky. From these repeated changes of the carriages, from the frequent loading and unloading, and from the excessive bad roads, the barrels were much broken, and the militia officers, who commanded at the

several depots, were not as attentive as they ought to have been in the construction of sheds to keep them from the weather. From these causes the greater part of the flour was much injured, although it was all examined, and the sound part separated from that which was damaged and repacked; the loss was very considerable. The consumption upon this wing was also unexpectedly increased to an enormous amount from the number of the Ohio militia which turned out to repel the second invasion of the enemy, and from the unnecessary retention of two thousand of them at Upper Sandusky, after the enemy had retired. On the 18th of August I had ascertained that there would be a deficiency of salted provision in the public depots, and as I knew that the contractors had a quantity of that article at Cleveland, which they never had been required to purchase, I addressed a letter to their agent, requiring of them two hundred thousand rations of salt meat for the consumption of the troops when in Canada. I did not at that time suppose that the flour would be wanted; but as it would have been unjust to have obliged the contractors to furnish the salted meat, which was then scarce, and upon which they would probably lose, I gave then the option of furnishing the other parts of the ration or not, as they pleased. See the original draughts of my letter, (No. 2) and Mr. Greely's answer, (No. 3) enclosing the return of provisions on hand at Cleveland, by which it will appear that they had at that time upwards of three-fourths of the whole quantity demanded. It is true that Mr. Orr (see his letter No. 4) contradicts the statement of his partner, Mr. Greely; but the reason of his doing so was soon explained. Upon his arrival at headquarters, about the 7th of September, he stated to me that the Secretary of War would not pay his draughts unless they were sanctioned by me upon an estimate of the cost of provision which I might require of him. I agreed to authorize his drawing, upon his submitting an estimate. His letter and estimate, (No. 5) will show that he wished the Government to advance the whole cost of the three hundred thousand rations which had been required of him, although he had on hand the greater part of the amount purchased with funds that had been placed in his hands when he took the contract. I refused to sanction his drawing for more than a reasonable advance upon the provisions which were then to be purchased. The

whole affair was explained to the Secretary of War in a letter of the 8th of September. This refusal of mine to suffer Orr to draw for sixty thousand dollars to purchase one hundred and thirty-five thousand rations, (which was the quantity wanted to make up the three hundred thousand which were required,) gave the first shock to the good understanding which had subsisted between us, and my taking him severely to task, when the army was crossing the lake, for not providing vessels to transport his provisions, entirely destroyed it.

From the foregoing statement it will, I trust, be acknowledged that, In June 1813, I was authorized to say that there was sufficiency of provisions in the public stores for the contemplated campaign, and that there was nothing unjust towards the contractors, or injurious to the public interests, in the demand of three hundred thousand rations in the latter end of August, since I knew that the greater part was on hand. I acknowledge that, at the time I gave the order, I thought it probable that all the salted meat required could not be procured, and certainly I should not have blamed the contractors for not performing impossibilities. The troops did not suffer because this provision was not purchased, but they were stinted in their supplies at Detroit, because the contractors did not (as they might have done) procure the means of transporting their provisions across the lake. The demand for the three hundred thousand rations was made to render "security more sure"; a maxim that should be constantly in the mind of every general when providing for the subsistence of his army in a wilderness, or in an exhausted country. How many in other respects well-planned enterprises have failed from neglecting it? The great King of Prussia, who, above all other generals, was famous for ascertaining the subsistence of his army, failed in an attempt upon Olmutz, in the seven year's war, because for once he trusted to a single resource. Had he succeeded in this attempt, he might, in a few weeks after, have dictated the terms of peace to the Empress Queen in her capital. But, without recurring to remote examples, our own annals furnish a fatal instance of the neglect of this maxim. General Wilkinson says that he was unable to take Montreal in the fall of 1813, because he was not joined by the corps under General [Wade] Hampton; and the latter asserts that he could not form the desired junction for want of provisions

I have never heard that the retention of the provisions, purchased by the agents of the United States in the hands of their commissaries after the commencement of Mr. Orr's contract, formed a part of his complaints against me. If such should be the case, however, Colonel Morrison will give the committee the most satisfactory information upon the subject. It was in pursuance of his advice that I prescribed the terms upon which the provisions should be delivered, and which were refused by Mr. Orr.

Mr. Orr has asserted that he cleared one hundred thousand dollars by the contract, and that, but for me, he would have made three hundred thousand. (See the depositions of Captain Reed, late assistant deputy quarter-master general and three other gentlemen, marked No. 6) I know of no act of mine that could have operated so injuriously to the interests of the contractors, unless in the two instances in which their entire failure to supply the troops was corrected by purchases made by the officers of the United States. Upon my return into the district, in January, 1814, Captain Oliver, the commissary, waited on me to inform me that he was then employed, under an order from Brigadier General Cass, in purchasing provisions for the troops at Detroit, who were almost in a starving situation in consequence on the neglect of the contractors to comply with General Cass's requisitions. I approved of the order which had been given to General Cass, and his successor, in the command of Detroit Colonel Butler, and directed Captain Oliver to continue his exertions to execute them. (See the deposition of Captain Oliver, No. 7.) I had scarcely disposed of this affair when I was alarmed by the intelligence received from Major General Gano, of the Ohio militia, to whom was entrusted the defence of Lower Sandusky and Put-in-bay, at the latter of which lay the prize ships taken from the enemy, that the troops at those places were supplied with provisions from the contractors had been unavailing. (See the deposition of General Gano No. 8) The matter was so urgent that no time was to be lost. Captain Oliver was, therefore, instructed to make a contract for the delivery of forty thousand rations, at Lower Sandusky, with the utmost possible despatch, to make the best bargain he could for the interests of the contractors, but to give a price which would insure the delivery of the provisions. What less

could have been done in the two cases here mentioned? Should I have countermanded the orders given by General Cass and Colonel Butler, by the execution of which alone the important posts at Detroit and Malden could be preserved, or should I have permitted the enemy to retake the ships in harbor, at Put-in-bay, which would have enabled them again to contend for the superiority on the lakes, for fear that I should deprive Mr. Orr of the opportunity of making three hundred thousand dollars instead of one hundred thousand?

In order to gain credit to his complaints of persecution from me, it was conceived to be necessary by Mr. Orr and his friends to assign some motive for it, and they have chosen to account for it by supposing partiality, on my part, towards Mr. John H. Piatt, the Deputy Commissary General. As this officer was allowed a certain per centum upon his expenditures, his emolument, consequently, increased by every order to purchase provisions. The contractors were made to fail, in order that business might be thrown in Piatt's hands; and I believe that it has been more than insinuated that we divided the spoil. By referring to Mr. Piatt's deposition, No. 9, it will be seen, and the fact can be verified by his accounts which have been passed at the War Office, that after the commencement of Orr's contract, Piatt never received an order from me to purchase any provisions, but in a single instance, and that was some beef cattle for the purpose of making the flour and other component parts of the rations in the hands of the United States commissaries complete rations. The order for the purchases to remedy the failure of the contractors at Detroit and Malden, in the winter of 1813-1814, was given when I was out of the district, first by General Cass, and afterwards by Colonel Butler, that for the supply of Sandusky and the Bass islands' was committed to Captain Oliver. To give color to my supposed subserviency to the interests of Mr. Piatt, it has, I understand, been asserted that I drew him from obscurity to place him in the lucrative office which he filled. This story is just as false as the inference that is drawn from it. I was a perfect stranger to Mr. Piatt when I found him upon the frontiers of this State acting as purchasing commissary under an appointment from General Hull. I continued him in opposition to the claims of a friend of eighteen years standing, because I was informed that he had given great satisfaction

to Hull's army by his zeal and industry. (See certificates of Generals Taylor, Findlay, and Colonel Jesup marked No. 10) With Mr. Piatt I never had any connexion, but in the relation of commanding general and commissary, in my life. If examined upon oath by the committee he will testify that all the pecuniary transactions which ever passed between us were me renting a house from him in Cincinnati for my family, for which he charged me more than the preceding tenant had paid; his purchasing two yoke of oxen from my farm after I had left the army, and a book account of fifty dollars, principally for articles furnished my family in my absence. In a case of this kind, where even the suspicion of improper conduct would be nearly as fatal to my character as a conviction of guilt, all delicacy should be laid aside and the affair examined to the bottom. It is, therefore, my earnest wish that Colonel Morison, Mr. Piatt, and such other officers as served under me, who are within reach of the committee, may be required to testify not only as to the facts, but to declare their opinion and the general impressions existing in the army. It would be very difficult to exhibit positive proof of the corruption of a commanding general, but there are a thousand circumstances which might come to the knowledge of those about him which would be quite as convincing as the most authentic document. I do not indeed think it would be wrong to make all public officers account for any sudden increase of wealth. To show that this has not been my case, I have procured the deposition of General Findlay and Mr. Burnett, to show that I left the army poorer than when I entered it, and that I have since been obliged to have recourse to loans to put my farm in a situation to support my family. The high character of these gentlemen will be vouched for by all the Ohio delegation.

I have no claim to push the investigation I have solicited further than is necessary to my own defence, but if with a view to a better understanding of the operations which may be necessary in a future war, the House of Representatives should determine to give greater scope to the inquiry, the result will, I am sure, prove the correctness of the places which were adopted for the support of the Northwestern army, and that the actual cost of the supplies will bear a favorable comparison with that of any other army which preceded it in the same tract, or with those which, in the late war, were em-

ployed in other sections of the country. I do not consider myself, however, responsible for the amount of money which may have been expended by the army under my command, excepting as to its faithful application, so far as that depended on me. I am, indeed, ignorant of the amount. All that my duty required me to know, was that it was as little as possible, to give security to the measures which I was directed to pursue. My opinion may differ from many, with regard to the quantum of supplies necessary to produce that security, and I may perhaps be blamed for having ordered them to be provided on a scale unnecessarily large. It cannot, however, be by those who are acquainted with the country which was the scene of our operations, or who will recollect that the army under General St. Clair was in a starving condition when it was defeated, and that of General Wayne, after a preparation of two and a half years, was scarcely able, upon very reduced allowance, to reach the point of its destination.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON
Late Major General in the United States Army

GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO POSEY

CORYDON Dec. 26 1815
Har. Pa. 447-450

LEGISLATURE OF INDIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Resolution of the House

Resolved unanimously by the House of Representatives of Indiana, That Ezra Ferris and Joseph Holman be, and they are bereby appointed a committee to wait upon his Excellency the Governor of this Territory with the following Address, as expressive of the sentiments of this House.

To his Excellency THOMAS POSEY, *Governor of the Indiana Territory*

SIR:

The House of Representatives, owing to your absence at the opening of the present session of the Legislature, were prevented from making a formal answer to your written communication: They now take the opportunity of informing your Excellency, that they highly approbate the measures you

were pleased to recommend; but owing to the prospects of going into a State Government shortly, they have thought proper to postpone the consideration of some of the subjects recommended, until the next session of the Legislature; and wishing to express the sentiments of esteem and respect which they feel towards your Excellency, before they are dissolved as a legislative body, the last, perhaps, that will act as such during our Territorial existence, they cannot refrain from declaring their perfect approabation of your offical conduct as Governor of this Territory. During your administration, Sir, many then existing evils have been remedied; and we particularly admire the calm, dispassionate, impartial conduct of your administration, which has produced the salutary effect of quieting the violence of party spirit, harmonizing the interests as well as feelings of the different parts of the Territory; and under your auspices, we have become as one people. We cordially wish renovated health, domestic happiness, and public applause, which you so justly merit, may accompany your future days, and be the reward of a life devoted to your country's service.

DENNIS PENNINGTON
Speaker of the House of Representatives

GOVERNOR'S REPLY

MR. SPEAKER, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INDIANA TERRITORY:

The address of your House, delivered by your committee, Messrs. Ferris and Holman, I receive with unspeakable pleasure, and deem it to have a place among the most consoling event of my life Yes, gentlemen, the approbation of so respectable a body, relative to my administration, will make an impression upon my mind that can only be eradicated by a dissolution of my existence in this life. But while life remains, and I continue in the reputable station which I hold, you shall always find me devoted to render to the citizens of our Territory all the faithful services which are committed to my charge, and made my duty to administer.

The probability is, that we shall shortly take a stand as a state, and add one more brilliant star to the Union of our beloved country; and let my station be as it may, whether public or private it shall be devoted to do all the good I can to serve

and promote the happiness and welfare of my fellow-citizens.

You will please to receive my thanks for the impressive manner in which you appreciate my services, and the interest you take for my personal welfare. Please to accept my best wishes that each individual may enjoy health and prosperity through your public and private life; that upon your retirement, you may have a happy meeting with your families; and that you may be under the providential care of the Supreme Governor of the Universe.

TH. POSEY

The Honorable the SPEAKER of the House of Representatives
26th Dec. 1815

HARRISON TO JOHN MCLEAN

CINCINNATI December 29, 1815

Am. Sta. Pa. Mil. Af. I, 658

DEAR SIR:

From Mr. [Jacob] Burnet and other very respectable characters who have lately returned from the Eastern States, I have learned that the industry and motives of a few enemies have produced an impression so general and unfavorable to my reputation, that it becomes a duty to my family, my character, and even my country, to endeavor to remove it. There was no means of accomplishing this which appeared so proper as that of an investigation by the House of Representatives. I have accordingly solicited one by a letter addressed to their Speaker, which is herewith enclosed: [see Dec. 20 above] it is also accompanied by a statement which I have prepared, with a number of documents to support it. The letter having been presented, you will oblige either to put the statement and documents also in possession of the House or deliver them to the Committee that may be appointed, as you may judge proper. I cannot believe that there will be any hesitation to grant my request: but if there should, I hope you will be prepared to support my claims. Mr. Bassett, who is my near relation, Mr. Pleasants, and Mr. Nelson of Virginia, will all of them readily yield you their aid, as would Mr. Clay himself if he should have an opportunity of speaking. I will thank you to make known my wishes to these gentlemen. I think it is probable that you may be one of the committee: if you are, I must repeat in this private letter what I have said in

that to the Speaker, that I wished the investigation to take the greates possible scope, and that no sense of delicacy towards me should prevent the asking the officers who may be summoned before the committee any questions which will probe the subject of the investigation to the bottom; and if I have a friend on the committee, he will take that course without the least apprehension that any thing will come to light which would cause him to blush for me. Others have served the country more successfully, but none with more zeal and fidelity than I have done. I claim no reward, I would be contented with obscurity; but I cannot rest under unmerited obloquy. I see that my old opponent (Proctor) has been severly reprimanded by the Prince Regent. My fate has been more hard than his. He had (I presume) a fair trial, I have been condemned unheard. His crime was the loss of an army and a province; mine of having incurred (in what way I know not) the hatred of a minister, and forcing a contractor to do his duty.

I have selected you as the medium of giving the enclosed papers their destination as well from the high opinion I entertain of your character as your being the Representative of my district. The trouble you may give yourself on this occasion will be gratefully remembered by dear sir, your friend and humble servant,

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

Hon. JOHN MCLEAN, Esq.

BURNET AND FINDLAY TO CONGRESS

CINCINNATI Jan 20, 1816

Am. Sta. Pa. Mil. Af. I, 658

HAMILTON COUNTY, SS:

Before me the subscriber, one of the Justices of the Peace in and for the county of Hamilton, came personally James Findlay and Jacob Burnet, who, on oath, depose and say, they are intimately acquainted with Major General William Henry Harrison, and that during the time he commanded the northwestern army, they had some agency in the management of his private pecuniary concerns, and know that he borrowed money to defray the ordinary expenses of his family. They further state, that since his resignation, he has increased the loans that were made during the war, for the purpose of im-

proving and stocking his farm at North Bend, which loans he has not refunded to the present day. And these deponents state further that the said General William H. Harrison is jointly interested with them in fifteen thousand dollars of the stock of the Miami Exporting Company, which is all the stock owned by him in that bank, which amount of stock was purchased with money received from the sale of land situated in the Miami, purchased and owned jointly by him and these deponents prior to the commencement of the late war. These deponents know that the General is, and for many years past has been, possessed of a large and very valuable real estate; but which has not been sufficiently productive to defray his ordinary expenses, in consequence of which he has been under the necessity of having recourse to loans, as above stated. These deponents know, that he proposed, since he left the service, to sell his bank stock for the purpose of raising money to enlarge the improvements on his farm, which was prevented by an offer from the bank to extend his accommodations. These deponents being intimately acquainted with the property business and circumstances of General Harrison, are convinced, that he did not add to the value of his estate during the war, and that he left the army more embarrassed than he was when he entered it. The conviction produced on our minds, by a long, intimate, and confidential acquaintance with the General, requires us to declare, on this occasion, that, in point of honor and integrity, he is not excelled by any person in the circle of our acquaintance, and that we believe he would rather sacrifice his fortune than add to it by an act dishonest or dishonorable.

JAMES FINDLAY
JACOB BURNET

Sworn and subscribed to, this twentieth day of January, 1816, by JAMES FINDLAY, one of the Deponents before me.

ANDREW MARK, J. P.

State of Ohio, Ross County, Mayor's office, Chilicothe, SS:

I, Levin Belt, Mayor of the town of Chilicothe aforesaid, do hereby certify, that the foregoing deposition was sworn to and subscribed before me, by JACOB BURNET, one of the members from Hamilton County, of our present Legislature, now in session in this place.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and

affixed the seal of my office this twenty-sixth day of January, in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixteen.

LEVIN BELT, *Mayor*

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE INDIANA TERRITORY 25th Jany. 1816

Har. Pa. 453, 454

DR. SIR:

The third of March ensuing brings my appointment as Governor of this Territory to a close, probably the President may be apprized of this. I herewith enclose to you an address of the House of Representatives to me [see Dec. 26 above]. If consistant with the views of the President, I shall readily accept of a reappointment.

Some of our citizens are very restless to go into a State Government. I wish the people were well prepared for the measure, but I may say with propriety that at least two thirds, or three fourths are not able to contribute but very little, if anything to the support of a state; and there is also a very great scarcity of talents or men of such information as are necessary to fill the respective stations, and offices of government. No doubt you have seen the memorial of the two Houses of the Legislature to Congress for the purpose of going into a state government. If Congress should be so benevolent as to grant all applied for, there would be no difficulty except the want of men of good information.

It is calculated that we shall go into a State government in twelve or eighteen months. I think three years would be short enough to place the Territory in a situation for the change. But so anxious are many, that no doubt they will be ready to accept of any terms. We have numbers sufficient, and that is all we can boast of.

In the *interem*, should a new territory be laid off, or should anything occur in creating an office; or should any vacancy take place the office of which I might be thought adequate to perform the duties of I shall be very thankfull for an appointment. Were I not needy, and in some degree thinking myself entitled to a claim of some attention (however small) from my country I would not ask the favor.

I am with much respect and esteem

Your obt. servt.

TH. POSEY

Honble. Col. JAMES MUNROE *Secretary of State*

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES Feb. 6th, 1816

Har. Pa. 372-374

SIR:

For some time reports have been circulating in the Indian Country that the Kickapoos attached to the Prophet had ceded to Captain [Matthew] Elliott's son the Silver Mines which it is supposed by Traders and Indians are on the Vermillion and that the British intend to take posession of them and establish a fort on that River in a few months. That as the British would make war on the Americans next Spring an opportunity would then be offered of revenging the death of the Kickapoos who was killed in October last near Detroit. That War talks had been distributed. That great dissatisfaction and angry countenances were manifested by many of the Indians and that In April or May next the Indians intend to hold a Grand Council to consult upon their affairs.

I have just now learned from a source tolerably authentic that the British have dispatched runners to all the chiefs of the different Tribes to invite them to Malden for the purpose of arranging the necessary measures to compel the Government of the United States to admit British Traders to a participation in the Indian trade within the Territory of the United State and that some of the Indians are now on their way to Malden to confer with the British on this subject.

Whether those machinations proceed from the perfidy of the British agents british traders or british Indians within our Territory must for the present be a matter of conjecture. The experience of the last thirty years however authorise the belief that it may be fairly ascribed to the former and I am also inclined to this opinion from the information a spy who was at Malden and Sandwich in September last has given me. He says the British were then intriguing with Pecan and other Chiefs with respect to their trade. It was insinuated that the Indians had a right and ought to insist upon the British Merchants being admitted into their country. That the Indians would derive greater advantages from the trade of the British merchants in respect to the quality and price of goods than from the Americans and that the Indians would be invited to Malden in the course of the winter to consult upon the subjects. I have great confidence in the Indian who communicated this information to me.

I give the following anedote as authorised. Shortly after the peace of 83 the British agent at Detroit was desirous of prevailing upon the Indians to continue the war against the Americans. A council was assembled at Detroit detection was apprehended and the council removed to the Moravian Towns in Upper Canada there the Indians were promised arms and whatever might be necessary to enable them to prosecute the war and the means devised for their receiving them in such manner as not to implicate the British Government in respect to the Treaty of Peace then recently made between that Government and the United States. A gentleman of respectability now here was at the council.

I have the honor to be very respectfully Sir
Your Obedient Servnt.

B. PARKE

P. S.

Since writing the above a Miami has sent me a message through a respectable Channel that not long since a Kickapoo probably of the Otter Band and a Pottawatomie of Gomas' band came to the Miamies at Mississinneway with a war letter from as they said the Pattawatomy and Kickapoo Tribes. They said that those tribes intended to make war against the United States next Spring. that they might even take some scalps this Winter. they wished the Miamis to unite with them if not they would consider and treat them as enemies. they alleged the surveying the millitary lands between the Illinois and Mississippi and the non arrival of their ammunities as a cause of their hostile views. The Miamis refused to accept their belt.

I have been extremely ill of an influenza but I am so far recovered that I expect to leave home for Corydon next week and after Court intend to visit you at Jeffersonville. I wish to have a personal conference with you in respect to Indian affairs.

B. P.

Copy of a letter from Judge B. PARKE to Gov. Posey

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES Feb. 11 1816

Har. Pa. 379, 380

SIR:

The Indians are constantly inquiring when they may expect

their annuities. Much uneasiness and some ill will have been manifested on account of their non arrival and their making this a subject of complaint might probably be considered as an evidence of an unfriendly disposition. I have told them that there had not yet been time to enable the President to send them on. Could the Indians receive their annuities shortly, I believe it would produce the best effects.

From the Indian Treaties published it appears that the Vermillion Kickapoos are not provided for in the manner that the other Wabash Indians have been. The annuity under the Treaty of the 9th Dec. 1809 is not revived. As the latter are to receive the same amount to which they were entitled in 1811 it might be unpolitic to make a solitary exception of the former.

I have the honor to be & B. PARKE

To Gov. POSEY

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE, IND. TER. March 16th 1816

SIR:

I herewith inclose to you two letter [Feb. 11 above] lately received from Judge B. Parke deputy assist and Indian Agent at Vincennes.

I have the honor to be with respect and /esteem Your Ob.t. Servt.

TH. POSEY

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES 15th Feb. 1816

Har. Pa. 370

SIR:

The Little Ducks informs that a short time since a Wea party of Sauky sixty in number, were on their march to punish the Miamis (or rather Weas) for the Death of Renard, (see my letter April 20th 1815) who was crippled at this place last April by Stone Eater but that through the interposition of the Kickapoos they had been induced to abandon the project and return to their own country.

This may appear to be rather an improbable tale but from the well known friendship that has long since subsisted between the Sauks and Kickapoos I think it probable that the little Ducks is correct.

It is proposed by some of the Citizens of the Eastern part of the Territory to petition the President to open a negotiation for extinguishing the Indian title to the Country inhabited by the Delawares.

However desirable it may be to acquire that Country a more improper time than the present could not be selected to make the attempt. The Delawares might not object but the Miamis are joint owners with them of the country watered by White River. No cession of the Former would be valid without the consent of the latter. That I am well assured could not now be obtained and it would be at the risk of a new war that the proposition would be made to them.

The 8th of November last I mentioned to you that it was desirable to obtain permission of the Delawares and Miamis to open a road through the Delaware country or a direct route from Dayton to this place. To this I believe they would accede and for a time nothing more ought to be attempted.

At the same time I mentioned the case of Laframbois' Horse is the horse or an equivalent likely to be recovered? If not tis time I gave Laframbois as I promised a Horse to remunerate him for his loss. Labosseiure is dead. I hope and expect that Laframbois will supply his place the Weas could not make a better choice.

A son of the Grand Poc is substituted by the Kickapoos for the deceased Renard. The latter was a good man the family of the former is one of th most mischievous in the Indian Country.

I have the Honor to be

B. PARKE

Copy of a letter from Judge B. PARKE to GOV. POSEY

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES Feb. 19 1816

Har. Pa. 375-378

SIR:

A Wea informs that the Miamis have received a *Talk* from the Winabagoes and other nations in that quarter desiring them to cause the Americans to remove from the Lands on the Wabash purchased in 1809 and that should it be necessary they would render such aid as would enable them to effect it.

The above was first communicated by a very worthless fellow but has since been confirmed by an Indian of a good character and who has long been very much attached to my Interpreter.

A Kickapooe lately from Malden states that two Attawas and Chippeways had been killed at or near Detroit by the Americans and that those tribes were so much irritated that they contemplated hostilities.

Another Kickapoo told my Interpreter at the Fort confidentially that most of the young men of his Tribe were more inclined to war than peace, he stated further that a Kickapoo chief lately from Malden had reported that the British were strengthening themselves in Canada shortly expected a reinforcement of Troops and that they had informed the Indians that as the Americans had violated the Treaty in sheding Indian Blood they would make war on them next spring to avenge their injuries.

You may recollect that towards the close of the Grand Council at Detroit the Prophet with some Kickapoos etc withdrew went over to the British and refused to sign the Treaty. It is to those miscreants that we are indebted for the circulation through the Indian country of so many mischievous tales from Malden.

It might be supposed that the kindness and humanity the candor and integrity manifested by our government in the intercourse with the Indians contrasted with the conduct of the British Government would conciliate and attach them to the former and totally aleniate them from the latter. It is however not the fact, but precisely the reverse. The Americans they almost unanimously distrust and detest but as occasion invites they hesitate not a moment in throwing themselves in the Arms of the British. The most vulgar contemptable trader of the NW. Company can exercise a more extensive and decisive influence over them than the most distinguished agent the President has in employ. And thus it will always be whilst the British Agents or Traders have access to or can maintain any kind of intercourse with them.

There was neither deception or intrigue practised in obtaining the treaty of 1809 it was fairly and honorably negotiated. The several Tribes who were Parties to it were highly gratified with the arrangement and it was probably for a time the most popular treaty ever made on the Wabash. Nine months

after, the Prophet at the instigation of the British and supported by his *posse* of Winebagoes at Tippecanoe first taught the Miamis to believe that they had been deceived and defrauded of the lands acquired by that treaty. Labossieure took the lead amongst the Weas, and until his death persevered in his opposition and murmurs. His memory is warmly cherished by many of the band and I suspect some collusion between them and the distant Indians with respect to the reported threat of the Winebagoes, etc. I believe that some mischievous project is on foot but whether it is confined to a few restless intriguous fellows or extends to tribes I cannot determine probably I may be able to ascertain these facts in the course of two or three weeks.

I have the honor to be B. PARKE

Governor POSEY

DAVIS FLOYD TO POSEY

February 24th 1816

Har. Pa. 371

SIR:

A Delaware Indian by the name of Nagomen Lately on a visits to the trading houses on drift wood River in a confidential manner communicated to a person there in my employ to be communicated to your Excellency that a part of the Potawatomies and a part of the Kickapoos were still mad and would probably strike the white people the ensuing Spring that the British their Fathers would also soon be mad and that they would be supported by them.

This Delaware is a man of considerable consequence in the Delaware nation being one of their first war Chiefs—he is entitled to the confidence of the Americans having accompanied Gen'l Harrison on his expedition against Canada. Whether the uneasiness is general or confined to a few restless vagabonds time alone can develop. Certain it is the fellow who gave the information is sincere in his belief.

I am respectfully your Obedient Servant

DAVIS FLOYD

His Excy Gov. POSEY

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES Feb. 29, 1816

Har. Pa. 383

SIR:

The Little Ducks and another Kickapoos inform that there are two Pottawatomis and one Otawas in the neighbourhood of the frontiers who intend to steal some horses and perhaps take a *scalp*.

I am respectfully Sir Your Oby. Servt.

B. PARKE

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE, 1st March 1816

Har. Pa. 368

SIR:

From recent information I think it is discoverable that the Indians entertain a hostile temper and disposition toward the U. States. They surely contemplate mischief toward the settlements upon our frontiers and probably upon the whole of the Northwestern frontiers.

I herewith inclose to you copies of sundry letters from Judge B. Parke deputy Indian agent, and one from Maj. Davies Floyd [see above] who is licensed to keep a trading house for the Indians [on Driftwood]. Should any thing farther transpire relative to the unfriendly temper of the Indians, it shall be made known to you.

I have the honor to be very respectfully

Your Obt. Servnt

TH. POSEY

Hon. WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD *Secretary of War*
CITY OF WASHINGTON

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES March 6, '16

Har. Pa. 381, 382

SIR:

On Thursday evening, I learned that a few days before an Indian came to a party of Harris' surveyors on the N. W. side of the Wabash, eight or ten miles distant from Fort Harrison defaced the marks they had made on a corner tree and

manifested such a degree of anger and resentment towards them that apprehending he would proceed to open violence, Harris and all his people abandoned their work and came to the Fort. They add that they thought from his *whistling* and *whooping* there was a party within hearing ready to support him. I should infer precisely the reverse believe he was entirely alone and that there was no necessity for discontinuing the survey. The circumstance, however has excited alarm and Harris is not inclined to resume the work unless an arrangement should be made for ensuring the personal safety of himself and hands. I have offered him an escort of friendly Indians which for the present is all that I think necessary. Should he not accept it other measures must I suppose be taken.

A Kickapoo squaw informs my interpreter that many of the Pottawatomis having been invited by the British are gone to Malden and that many more are about proceeding to the same place.

I am very respectfully Sir Your Obt. Servant.

B. PARKE

His Ex. Gov. POSEY

P. S. Your letter of the 28th ult. by Col. [Allen B.] Thorn has been received.

B. PARKE TO POSEY

VINCENNES April 10th, 1816

Har. Pa. 384, 385

SIR:

By the 3rd article of the treaty of Fort Wayne (7th June 1803) it was stipulated that the Tribes who were parties to it should annually receive a quantity of salt, not exceeding one hundred and fifty bushels. The Weas and Vermillion Kickapoos have lately reminded me that they expected the salt to which they were entitled under that article.

No injury has yet been done on the frontiers and the little Ducks and others of the Vermillion Kickapoos vehemently deny any knowledge of the warriors of their tribe contemplating the perpetration of mischief.

Inclosed herewith are two *talks* delivered on Sunday last to Maj. [Willoughby] Morgan at Ft. Harrison. Lafrombois is a Wea and the Ducks a Vermillion Kickapoo. It appears

that they are still indisposed to yeild with respect to the disputed boundary. The Weas and Vermillion Kickapoos are too contemptable to admit of the suposition that this plan of opposition originated with them. The pretention has been advanced under an idea that they would be countenanced and supported by the other Indians. To the British they appear to listen with complaisance and attention, and promptly accede to the arrangement proposed by them. Lafrombois too has received a belt from the british advising the Weas to be quiet and not injure the americans. These stories are intended to amuse, are but half told and the balance may probably be pointed out in a few days. Lafrombois insinuates that I acted improperly in selecting the Indians, I intended to invite to the Council. I told them that I should send for all the Miamis the Vermillion Kickapoos, and the Delawares and as the little Otter of the Prairie was a particular friend of the Vermillion band, frequently transacted business with them and with their own chiefs signed their treaties that I should send for him also but as to the other chief of the Prairie Kickapoos, I should not send for them. The Vermillion Kickapoos are intruders, but they have for many years been in the quiet possession of the country they inhabit on the Wabash and Vermillion and may now be considered as the rightfull occupants.

B. PARKE

Gov. POSEY

P. S. I believe the story of the Squaw. She is of a powerfull family and disregards the Ducks and his squaw. A Kickapoo left the Ft. Hastily just after she arrived, and I believe gave notice to the war party that was approaching our settlements that they were discovered. I am of the opinion that no mischief will be done till the term of the grand council is over. I have attended to your instructions and have no knowledge of any intruders on Indian lands in this Territory.

B. PARKE

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE INDIANA TERRITORY 20th April 1816

Har. Pa. 386-388

SIR:

I herewith inclose to you two talks [following] of the Indians also the copy of a letter just received from Judge B.

Parke. [Apr. 10 above.] He advised of a meeting that he had with the Indians at Fort Harrison of recent date and that he had appointed the 23 of May for a grand council of the Indians to be held at sd place. He observed that he had communicated with you and given you an account of the result of the meeting apologising to me for the step he had taken; that it was owing to the shortness of the time and the necessity of the communication reaching the department of war in the most speedy manner. He furnished me with copies of his letters communicated to you.

I am very respectfully

Your Obt. Servant.

TH. POSEY

Honble WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD, *Secretary of War*
CITY OF WASHINGTON.

Lafrombois said that he had but little to communicate and that related to peace. That Pecan had sent a message to all the Miamis informing them that he was about establishing a village at Eel River, and invited them to bring their wives and children there. That they would endeavor to establish their village in the old form. That their presents would be delivered at Ft. Wayne, that the commanding officer at Ft. Wayne told him that there were many dishonest agents but he would see that justice was done them. That the President would fulfill all his engagements with him and that he Lafrombois) had learned that the British had sent a belt to the Kickapoos advising them to remain at peace.

Being asked whether the Indians had thought farther on the subject of the disputed boundary Lafrombois answered that it was the general sentiment amongst the Indians that Gen. Harrison, Barron the Interpretor, and all the Indians who had been at the treaty (probably that of the 30th Sept. 1809) should be called together. That it was probable that some of the Indians did not understand the subject. That the Kickapoos had been sent for but that they had nothing to do with it. That the land never belonged to them.

It being suggested that their opposition to the treaty repeatedly ratified, might be considered unfriendly. Lafrombois observed that were the President offended he could not help it. That it would be hard were the Indians to be de-

frauded of all their lands. The Little Ducks said that two young men had arrived with a belt of wampum from the British. That the British told them that they must remain at peace and neither kill the white people or steal their horses. That if they went to war again they would be exterminated that they were too weak. That when the British and Americans made peace, the latter promised to cloth and feed the Indians plentifully but when they looked upon them they saw them naked and starving. That they did not expect this. That the Americans had not complied with their promise. That the young men who brought the belt, had told the Indians, that the British gave them more than they could destroy whilst the Indians within the American Territory had scarcely any thing to eat.

That the British advised the Kickapoos to collect in a village on the Wabash. That they would do so but had not yet fixed upon a place. That the British advised the Miamis to do the same thing and for the Miamies and Kickapoos to live together as friends. That if the Kickapoos saw any of the Pottawatomies moving toward the frontiers for a mischievous purpose they were advised by the british to give information of it to the Americans. (Copy)

B. Parke to Posey

Vincennes April 25 1816

Har. Pa. 390-392

Sir:

On Sunday Little Eyes informed me that the British had advised the Indians not to permit the surveying and settlement of their lands purchased from them untill they received their annuities from the United States. That a talk to that effect had been dispatched to all the Indians of the Indiana and Illinois (and to the Mahas Richards and C. of the Missouri) and further that in the course of this year a great council would be held at Portage Desoux. That an agent of the British would attend it to see that the Indians had justice done them by the U. S. in what ever regarded their lands. He added that the exceptionable conduct of the Weas and Vermillion Kickapoos at Fort Harrison was justly to be attributed to the British.

You are acquainted with the favorable opinion I have of

Little Eyes. He has never deceived me and however extraordinary or improbable his communication may appear, I assure you I have no doubt of its truth.

I regret that Little Eyes was not at the council but being at a distant hunting ground he was not invited.

Little Eyes observed the conduct of the Weas and Vermillion Kickapoos had been disingenious and flagrantly unjust. That they all knew the land had been sold and the boundary fairly established and that instead of caveling or pretending they knew nothing of the sale they ought frankly to have acknowledged the cause of their objection to the surveying of the land. That his friendship for the U. State induced him to offer me his advice. That when the Indians assembled at Ft. Harrison, I should deliver them their annuities which would instantly remove all obstacles to the quiet occupation of the land. Otherwise, he apprehended they would persist in their opposition.

The sincerity of Little Eyes may be questioned, but what ever was his motive for suggesting this arrangement, it is not to be doubted that the immediate delivery to the Indians of their annuities would have a good effect. Seven months have elapsed since the treaty at Detroit and ere this they profess to believe their goods might have been forwarded. They do not, or will not comprehend the explanations frequently given, as to the cause of this delay. British agents or Traders or disaffected Indians have repeatedly informed them that the U. States would keep their land, but that they would pay them nothing for it. That they need not expect their annuities and that the President would deceive them.

B. PARKE

To Gov. POSEY

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE 4th May 1816

Har. Pa. 389

SIR:

I herewith inclose you a copy of a letter just received from Judge B. Parke, [Apr. 25 above] I think of a nature worthy to be attended to. I have information from other quarters of the same nature. The Indians are very loud and restless in their complaints, of not having received their annuities.

They are under strong apprehension that the U. States mean to defraud them and take their lands from them without making compensation. There is a quantity of salt due them by treaty which is mentioned in a former letter of Judge Parke a copy of which was inclosed to you. I have given them partial supplies of salt, with supplies of provision at different times but they want the quantity of salt stipulated to be given them by treaty. I do not conceive myself authorized to give it to them without directions from the department of war.

I have the Honor to be very respect

Your Obt. Servant

TH. POSEY

WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD, *Secretary of War*

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE 11th May 1816

Har. Pa. 393

SIR:

The information given of the 19th Ult. from the Department of war, came to hand by the last mail. That the annuities due the Kickapoos, Weas, and Peankahaws for the years 1813, 14, 15 and 16 have been ordered to be purchased and sent on to my care and also three thousand two hundred dollars worth of goods to be distributed as presents to the Indians at such times and on such occasions as I may deem proper.

I shall carefully attend to all the instructions and think it very important that the goods should be sent on as speedily as possible.

I have the honor to be with great respect

Your Obt. Servant

TH. POSEY

Hon WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD, *Secretary of War*

RESOLUTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

CORYDON, INDIANA June 29 1816

Har. Pa. 410-412

Be it ordained by the Representatives of the people of the Territory of Indiana in Convention met at Corydon on Mon-

day the tenth day of June in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and sixteen that we do for ourselves and our posterity, agree, determine, declare and ordain that we will and do hereby accept the propositions of the Congress of the United States, as made and contained in their act of the nineteenth day of April, eighteen hundred and sixteen, entitled "An act to enable the people of the Indiana Territory to form a Constitution and State Government, and for the admission of such State into the Union on an equal footing with the original States". And we do further for ourselves and our posterity, hereby ratify, confirm, and establish the boundaries of the said State of Indiana as fixed, prescribed, laid down, and established in the Act of Congress aforesaid, and we do also further for ourselves and our posterity, hereby, agree, determine, declare, and ordain, that each and every tract of land sold by the United States within the said State, and which shall be sold from and after the first day of December next, shall be and remain exempt from any tax laid by order or under any authority of the said State of Indiana, or by or under the authority of the General Assembly thereof, whether for State, County, or Township, or any other purpose whatever for the term of five years from and after the day of sale of any such tract of land and we do moreover for ourselves and our posterity hereby declare and ordain that this ordinance and every part thereof shall forever be and remain irrevocable, and inviolate without the consent of the United States in Congress assembled first had and obtained for the alteration thereof or any part thereof. Done in Convention June 29th 1816. By order of the Convention.

JONATHAN JENNINGS
President of the Convention

Attest:
WILLIAM HENDRICKS, *Secy.*

GIBSON TO SECRETARY OF STATE

JEFFERSONVILLE July 6th 1816
Har. Pa. 436-440

SIR:

I have the honor to enclose you a transcript of the proceedings of the Executive of the Indiana Territory for the half year ending the 30th of June 1816. [Not found] The Con-

vention of the Territory closed its session of three weeks on Saturday the 30th ultimo. They have formed a Constitution, and determined to commence the operations of their State Government the first Monday in November next. I hope it will be in my power to transmit you a printed copy of it by next mail.

I have the honor to be with high consideration of esteem and respect

Yr. most obt. servt.

JNO. GIBSON

The Honble. JAMES MONROE, *Secty. of State*

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES THE MEMORIAL OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE INDIANA TERRITORY MOST RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:

That the inhabitants of the said Territory suffer evils from the nature of their political institutions to which it becomes their imperious duty to seek a constitutional remedy. When an interesting portion of the american population unite in forming a wish for an important change in their political situation it may be fairly infered that no palliatives can lessen the evils they endure and it is an happy circumstance that the redress which is the object of the present memorial to obtain has been foreseen provided for and will excite in its accomplishment neither convulsion nor storm.

Your memorialists will not arraign the wisdom of Congress in forming the ordinance for the Government of the Northwestern Territory. They may have had solid reasons for giving to the Territorial or Coloneal governments the singular monarchial feature they now exhibit. But it will be allowed that all those governments present features very little reconcilable to the principles which have governed the institutions of the different states of the Union.

Born and educated in the different states of the Union; in the enjoyment of civil and political rights, they think it hard to be in a degree disfranchised as a people when they have done no crime, but by their migration thither confered a benefit to the United States.

Your memorialists deeply impressed with a sense of their provincial dependence, in behalf of themselves and constituents now make a solemn appeal to the national Legislature and pray that they may have the liberty of forming a con-

stitution and be admitted as an independent state into the Union upon the same footing as one of the original states. The unexampled increase in population of the state of Ohio warrant the belief that similar consequences would attend the emancipation of Indiana. It is principle and not men or measures that we complain of, and confiding in the justice of our cause we doubt not of our case meeting proper consideration and your memorialists as in duty bound will ever pray etc.

GENL. W. JOHNSTON, *Speaker of the House of Representatives*
and
JAS. BEGGS, *President of the Legislative Council*

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE IND. TER 24 Sept. 1816

Har. Pa. 394, 395

SIR:

At different shipments from the arsenal near Pittsburg sent on by Maj. [Abram R.] Woolley, I have received a few days since the whole of the goods ordered by Government to my address. The U. S. presents and the annuities for the Weas, Kickapoos and Pyankashaws for the years 1813-14-15 and 16. And yesterday I shipped them to Vincennes to be delivered there to Judge B. Parke to whom I have given directions to send them immediately on to Ft. Harrison for distribution, except the Pyankashaws annuities which I have directed to be stored at Shawneetown under the care of Mr. Joseph U. Street subject to be called for by Col. Pierre Menard Indian Agent at Kaskaskia for him to deliver to the Pyankashaws agreeable to the solicitation of Governors [William] Clark and [Ninian] Edwards by whom I was informed that it would be very inconvenient for the Pyankashaws to attent at Ft. Harrison. They living at a considerable distance therefrom and they being miserably poor and needy the four hundred dollars that I am authorized to draw upon the department of war for to be paid them in cash if equally convenient to government I would be glad to obtain an order upon the receiver at Vincennes or Kaskaskia for.

I have the Honor to be with great respect Your Obt. Servant

TH. POSEY

P. S. I shall attend at Fort Harrison by the time the goods reach there for the purpose of distributing them.

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

JEFFERSONVILLE 29th Sept. 1816

Har. Pa. 397

SIR:

Yours of the 6th inst. I have received giving information of my appointment together with Judge B. Parke and Phidilio Sharp for holding a treaty with the Indians for a purchase of land. I have also received a letter of instructions relative thereto of the 12th inst. and shall pay the necessary attention to the business. I have written on to Judge Parke and Mr. Sharp and expect an arrangement will take place immediately to carry into execution the design of the President. The goods sent on to me to be distributed to the Indians at present I expect to make use of while engaged in the treaty and it may be that I shall have to make some purchases. I shall order supplies of provisions but it will also be necessary to have the command of some money, could an arrangement be made to get money from some of the receivers of this part of the country or from some of the Banks? Of this you will please inform me.

I have the honor to be with great respect
Your Obt Servant

TH. POSEY

Hon the secty. of War WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

VINCENNES 24th Oct. 1816

Har. Pa. 399

SIR:

I arrived here on Monday in order to meet some Indian chiefs that are here and am on my way to Ft. Harrison to the Treaty to be held there. The Water is so extremely low that the Indian annuities and presents have not yet reached this place. I am anxiously waiting for them and shall go on to Ft. Harrison with them for the purpose of distribution. Three chiefs are here to visit myself and Judge Park. Little Eyes and Saco of the Weas. I am very attentive to them, have made them some presents etc. They appear to be in a pretty good humor we have met and conversed several times sometimes upon the business of the land, but very litely upon

that subject whenever it is mentioned it comes from themselves. We dont wish to say much upon that subject untill they receive their annuities and presents. I ship'd the Indian goods from Jeffersonville all in good order on the 27th Ult. Since here I have sent an express to know what detains them and to know at what time we may expect them. The success of the Treaty very much depends upon a speedy distribution of the annuities and presents. I think the business in a pretty good train and that there can scarcely be any doubt of success in the purchase of some land more or less the least quantity may be a million of acres a great chance for more. We may be under the necessity of making more presents than what is committed to my charge—for that purpose $3,200 is the ammount.

I have this moment heard from the boat bringing on the Indian goods. The goods are all safe, but the boat cannot progress for want of water. I must use some method by small craft or waggoning to get them on. The treaty will hold on the eleventh next month.

I have the honor to be very respectfully
Your Obt. Servant

TH. POSEY

Honble. WM. H. CRAWFORD, *Secretary of War*

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

VINCENNES Nov. 21 1816

Har. Pa. 363-367

SIR:

In furnishing an estimate of the expenses of the Indian Dept. at this place I have thought it would be but to exhibit a statement of the disbursements that have been made on account of that Dept. from the time I came into office up to the present period and which appears from the papers herewith enclosed marked A & B. From these you will be enabled to judge of the propriety of the estimate mark C, and which is also enclosed.

The Pyankashaws having removed beyond the Mississippi, I forwarded annuities to the Agent at Kaskaskia and he has delivered them to the Indians and believing that the Gov. would hereafter send them on to that place, I have not included therein the estimate enclosed.

My intercourses with the Delewares, Upper Miamis and Pottawatamies has not been such as to enable me to ascertain the number of persons belonging to those tribes. The Weas amount to four hundred and sixty and the Vermillion Kickapoos to four hundred and forty persons.

I have the Honor to be very respectf.

Sir Your Obedient Servant.

[THOMAS POSEY]

An Estimate of the Expenses of the Indian Dept. at Vincennes or year 1817

Annuities		Presents	Provisions	Transportation	House rent & Fuel
Weas	Kickapoos				
Dols cts.	Dolls. Cts.	Dol. Cts.	Dol. Cts.	Dolls. Cts.	Dolls cts.
1150 ..	1000 ..	4000 ..	5000 ..	500 ..	75 ..

Expenses.	Some Work at Vincennes	Agent	Interpretor	Gun Smith at Ft. Harr.
Dols Cts.	Dols Cts.	Dols. Cts.	Dols. Cts.	Dol. Cts.
100 ..	60 ..	1500 ..	1248 ..	1095 ..

Express Rider from Vincennes to Ft. Harrison	Total
Dollars Cts.	Dollars Cents
319 37½	16587 37½

Abstract of provision issued by the Contractor to the Indians at Vincennes and Fort Harrison from the 1st of September 1814 to 1st November 1816

At Vincennes

	pounds of beef	pounds of flour	pounds of pork		pounds of soap
Sep & Oct 1814.....	1976	776			
November..	691	310			
December...	812	788½	58	6½	
January 1815	423	447	302	12½	
February...	20	350	330	5½	
March.....	104	791	742	3	
April.....	50	408	468		
May.....	58	216	200	8	
June.....	292	193			
July.....	180	180			
August.....	288	281		3	
September..	394	394		12	
October....	237	237		3	
	5525	5571½	2100	53½	
November..	635	735		11	
December...	196	276		28	
January 1816	410	515		34	2
February...	325	410		30	
March.....	254	254		16	
April.....	168	388	70	67	
May.....	90	440	370	40	
June.....		141	131		
July.....	75	566	421	39	
August.....		1033	943	43	
September..	140	1042	966		
October....	110	1002	1772	Qts of Salt 62	
	2403	7702	4673	376	2
brt. Down..	5525	5571½	2100	53½	
Total.....	7928	13273½	6773	423½	2

At Ft. Harrison

	pounds of beef	pounds of flour	pounds of Pork	Qts. of Salt	qts. Whiskey	lbs soap
Sept & Oct. 1814						
November						
December						
January 1815						
February						
March						
April						
May						
June						
July						
August						
September						
October	876	876		64½		
	876	876		64½		
November						
December						
January 1816						
February	15	12½			1	
March	453	282			72	
April	54½	65¾			31½	
May	2083	3450	375		59	14
June	1524½	3847	1306		266½	
July						13
August						
September	3170	4375	367	13	242	
October						
	7300	12032½	2048	13	672	27
brought down	876	876		64½		
Total	8176	12908½	2048	77½	672	27

Abstract of the Expenses other than provisions issued by the (Contractor) of the Indian Dept—

	Annuities						Presents		Provision	
	Weas		Kickapoos		Pyan.					
	Dolls.	Cts	Dol.	Cts	Dolls.	Cts	Dolls.	Cts	Dolls.	Cts
For the year 1813	.....	..	.....	..	.....	..	68	56¼	6	..
" " " 1814	.....	..	.....	..	.....	..	917	36¼	659	29
" " " 1815	.....	..	.....	..	.....	..	3778	67½	1231	2¼
" " " 1816	4000	..	4000	..	3600	..	13423	59½	1121	89
	4000	..	4000	..	3600	..	18,188	19½	3012	20¼

Transportation		House Rent and Fuel for Indians		Express		Keeping Ind. Horses		Keeping Public Horses & horse hire		
Dolls.	Cts	Dolls.	Cts	Dol.	Cts	Dolls.	Cts.	Dolls.	Cts	
.....	....	33	..	.....	....	.....	....	.....	....	
.....	....	.....	....	.....	....	.....	....	38	....	
.....	....	13	25	50	....	.....	....	.....	....	
101	50	115	....	156	25	32	....	52	25	
7709	12½	43	75	140	....	8	75	10	....	
7810	62½	205	....	340	25	40	75	100	25	

Ferriages		Medical Aid		GunSmith Work At Vincennes		
Dolls.	Cts	Dolls.	Cts.	Dolls.	Cts.	
3	....	.....	....	.....	....	Note—There is now on hand of the above amount of Presents purchase for the year 1816
3	....	35	....	254	67½	
4	50	.....	....	594	56	
						Amt. for. by Gov.....3200
						of goods pur. in.....2085
10	50	.....	....	849	23½	5285 Dol.

Department under the superintendances of Governor T. Posey

GunSmith Work at Ft. Har.				Assistant Indian Agent.		Com. Special Agents		Interpreters			
Wages		Purchase of Shop & Iron						Vincennes		Harr.	
Dol.	Cts.	Doll.	Cts.	Dols.	Cts.	Dols.	Cts.	Dols.	Cts.	Dolls.	Cts.
.....	....	.....	....	.....	....	.....	....	390	....	...	....
.....	....	.....	....	80	....	30	....	624	....	60	20
890	....	181	75	480	....	372	50	624	....	511	....
915	....	.....	....	400	....	1411	75	580	....	533	60
1805	....	181	75	960	....	1814	25	2224	....	1104	80

Extra Allowance to Interpretors		Occasionates Interpretors		Express Rides from Vincennes to Fort Harrison		Total	
Dolls.	Cts.	Dolls.	Cts.	Dolls.	Cts.	Dolls.	Cts.
.....	....	.....	....	.....	....	491	56¼
137	....	10	50	.....	....	2022	60¼
51	....	50	12½	39	....	8958	74¼
16	50	.....	....	307	37½	32426	39½
204	50	60	62½	346	36½	44,499	30¼

POSEY TO SECRETARY OF WAR

VINCENNES 6th Decr. 1816

Har. Pa. 402-409

SIR:

Yours of the 23d Sept. I rec'd at this place. In order to lay before the Indians the subject which you have recommended respecting the furnishing them mechanics I thought it would afford you a good opportunity to recommend to them

to go into a State of civilization for unless they have a desire to become civilized, Mechanics will be of very little use to them. Therefore I made a speech to them upon the subject, a copy of which I herewith enclose to you [following]. What I have said is merely recommendatory and not positively engaging that government will comply with what I advise, except as to furnishing them with mechanics for which they were to make a compensation. I hope what I have recommended to the Indians may not be thought to arrogate, as exceeding the duty of an Indian agent. I should like to have the sentiments of the Department of war upon the subject which I have recommended to the Indians; for I would not by any means have the thought that I would do anything contrary to the sentiments of government. The Indians received (apparently) my advise with great attention, and by their reply was well pleased that their fathers the Americans would have so tender a regard for them as to assist them in endeavoring to civilize them. They said they would take the subject into consideration and after making it generally known among their people they would probably by next spring give an answer; and as to the subject of receiving mechanics it should be considered separately.

I have the honor to be very respectfully your Obt. Servt.

TH. POSEY

The Honble The Secretary of War
CITY OF WASHINGTON

A SPEECH DELIVERED BY GOVERNOR POSEY AGENT FOR INDIAN AFFAIRS TO SEVEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY INDIANS AT FT. HARRISON

22nd Novr. 1816

Har. Pa. 404-409

My Children: I am happy to meet with you this day and to have this opportunity to open my mind and speak to you. Unstop your ears, open your eyes, look, hear and consider well what your father Weactonon is going to say to you, let it sink deep into your hearts, and if you approve of my advice you should follow it, but you have a right to follow it or not as you may think proper, tho I must request you to keep this my advice in your memory and tell it to your chil-

dren, your children's children and let it be handed down to future generations what Weactonon now says to you:

My Red Children: Weas, Kickapoos, Potatwatomies, Chiefs and Warriors and whatever other bands may be present, a great many of you are collected here at this place, look up to the great Spirit, the Father and creator of the Heavens the earth, and every living creature; He is now looking down upon us; He knows our hearts and is acquainted with every thing that is done either by us or in any way whatever. If we do what pleases him he smiles upon us and will reward us if anything that displeases him he is angry and will punish us either in this world or in the world where our Spirits go and probably in both.

My Children: The Great Spirit has put his laws into the hearts of all his children of whatever complexion, whether white, Red or Black; of whatever nation tongue and kindred, they all know when they do right and when they do wrong as well be acceptable to your father the President and great council of the nation.

My children: Look and see how happy many of the people are that have got into a settled state. See the Cherikees, the Chickasaws, Choctaws and some of the Creeks, they live happy and are increasing. Why not follow their example and be happy too? They have their good houses, their good plantations, stock of every kind to subsist on, and a great deal to sell to the white people. Many of them are getting very rich. Do you follow their example. They don't steal and plunder the white people and one another. Now my advice to you is in order to be at peace and friendship with the White people, and with each other that you do not steal and plunder, and if you have anything that some of your bad men have taken, deliver it up that the right owner may get it again. We have some bad men among us as well as you have but we strive to keep them from stealing, plundering and treating you ill, and if they have anything belonging to you it must be restored to you.

My Children: This may be the last time I may ever see you but if the great Spirit pleases to give me life and health, I expect to see you again next spring, when you expect to see us or some others that your father the President will send to meet you upon the business for which we were sent to see you, and have a talk. We all know that it is our duty to love

the great Spirit and keep his laws; He furnishes us with every good thing—with what we eat, drink and wear—then we ought to love him, and he has told us to love him, to keep his laws, in our hearts, to love one another love our fathers, mothers, our brothers and sisters and our wives and children. We must do no wrong one to another; we must be in peace with all men—not kill, not steal and not have mallice in our hearts one to another.

My Children: Your Father the President, the great American Council wish you well and wish you to be in friendship and at peace with the American people, with one another and with all nations of people; they wish you to be happy, and would assist you if you would strive to make yourselves happy.

My Children: I have grown old in the service of my country. I have served as a war chief in time of war and have served in time of peace. I have seen and experienced a great deal of the transactions between man and man, and can give you good advice. The time has come that men are wiser, more enlightened, have greater experience and know more the great spirit than formerly.

My Children: Your father the President and Great American council wish to see you happy and hear that you have a desire to be settled, I am authorized to tell you and my advice to you seeing and knowing (altho you possess a great deal of land) your subsistance by hunting has diminished and is daily decreasing, the wild animals by which you used to be supported have got so scarce that it is with great difficulty (in many parts where you reside) furnish yourselves with nourishment—then my children why not set about immediately to alter your mode of life? Settle yourselves in villages or otherwise, raise stock of every kind particularly cattle and hogs, cultivate the earth, raise corn and other kinds of subsistance, build houses, and learn the useful arts; have your children taught to read and write and to love the Great Spirit and serve him. If you incline to follow my advice you must give me information as soon as you can. And I will give information to your father the President and great Council of the Nation, who I have no doubt will assist you, they will send tradesmen to show you how to build houses and make necessary furniture, to make ploughs, axes, hoes, and every kind of usefull tool; you will have men sent to shew you how to cultivate your fields; you have some horses that may be

made to plough, and more can be furnished; you will have oxen, carts, sled, and harness of every kind usefull for you and you will have women sent to teach your women how to spin, weave, and make your clothing, to make a beginning usefull tools and implements of husbandry, and some provision will be sent to you.

Now my Children: Altho a great deal may be given to you, you know that all these services cannot be done for nothing; some compensation must be made you have it in your power to make such kind of compensation with you, when you expect, to have the Delawares and Miamies with you. But in the meantime if you should make up your minds upon the subjects which I have mentioned to you, you must make it known to me. The way will always be open to me for communication. If you make your mind known to Major [John T.] Chun who commands at Ft. Harrison to Judge B. Parke or Joseph Barron Indian Interpreter at Vincennes it will soon find me. I shall be either at Vincennes or at no great distance from thence. It may be that I shall be at Ft. Harrison again in the course of a month or two your annuities will be delivered to you as soon as the council breaks up, after which we shall part for this time, and now I pray that the great Spirit may take you into his Holy keeping, and guide you unto all truth and do not forget what Weactonon has said to you, he will always do what the great Spirit may enable him to do for your good. You have given me the name of Weactonon, I think it an honorable name, and shall hand it down to my Children. I now shake hands with you Gamelin or Madison; Little-Eyes or Washington, Stone-eater, Jackson, Little Otter, Little Ducks, Negrolege, Yellow-Beaver, and the rest of the Village and War Chiefs.

To this speech several of the chiefs replied and was well pleased saying they would give an answer on or before next spring. That in the meantime they would consult their respective bands and tribes and make the contents of the speech known generally among them.

Posey to Secretary of War

Vincennes 10th Decr. 1816

Har. Pa. 400, 401

Sir:

Yours of the 4th Octr. I received at this place early in Novr. Agreeably to the requisition therein contained and in

order to make my report upon the subject accurate and properly explained upon the different items the names and probable numbers of the tribes under my superintendency, the amount of the annuities paid them, the amount of presents other than provision which ought to be distributed among them, the annual expense of provisions issued to them, and an estimate of the authorized and contingent expenses of my agency, including not only the items just enumerated, but also my pay and emoluments and those of the interpreters and other persons in my employment as agent.

When I received your letter I was on my way to treat with the Indians at Ft. Harrison, I had not documents with me, and I thought by postponement of the report to you I could make it much more satisfactory after the treaty. When the treaty broke up and I returned to this place I immediately set about to make the report, but there were documents at Jeffersonville that were necessary to be obtained. I have dispatched an express which I expect will return in a few days, but not in time for the report to go by the return of next mail which will be on the 12th Inst, tho. the report could be ready to send off in a few days after. By the next succeeding mail it will be certainly sent on, and will reach you the first or second week of Jany. next.

The business of the agency I find increasing very much. The salary of the agency as annexed to this office of Governor of the Territory was $800, this sum as a salary for the agent of this station (Ft. Harrison and its dependencies) is surely very inadequate. The duties of the agent are probably equal to those discharged by any other agent, and of course the salary ought to be equal. I wish the President to take this subject into consideration, and that you would advise me what I am to receive as my salary from the time I went out of office as Governor of Indiana Territory.

I have the honor to be very respectfully,
Your Obt. Servt.

TH. POSEY

Honble. Secretary of War
CITY OF WASHINGTON

Report of Harrison Investigation

January 23, 1817

Am. Sta. Pa. Mil. Af. I, 667

Mr. Richard M. Johnson made the following report:

The select committee, to whom was referred the letter and documents from the acting Secretary of War on the subject of General Harrison's letter, (Dec. 20, 1815) ask leave to report:

That they have investigated the facts involved in this inquiry by the examination of documents, and a great number of the most respectable witnesses personally acquainted with the transactions upon which the inquiry originated; and the committee are unanimously of opinion that General Harrison stands above suspicion, as to his having had any pecuniary or improper connexion with the officers of the commissariat for the supply of the northwestern army; that he did not wantonly or improperly interfere with the rights of contractors, and that he was in his measures governed by a proper zeal and devotion to the public interest. The committee ask leave to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject; and, as the papers refer in part to the conduct and transactions of the contractors of the northwestern army, whose accounts are unsetled, and only incidentally involved in this inquiry, that the papers be transmitted to the Department of War.

Communicated to the House of Representatives.

Harrison to Choteau

North Bend, 14th Nov. 1817

Choteau Mss. 34, St. Louis Mercantile Library

Dear Sir

The lapse of years has not obliterated from my memory the civilities I received from you on my several visits to St. Louis. I wish now to add to the obligation by requesting for the bearer hereof Mr. Jno. L. Watkins any aid you may have in your power to afford him in the prosecution of his views. He wishes to be employed as a Teacher of youth being well acquainted with the Latin and Greek Language and the Mathmatics.

He lived for a considerable time as a tutor in my family

and has since superintended an Academy in Shelbyville Ky. in both of which situations has given great satisfaction. Any civilities or services you may render him will be acknowledged by me.

Be pleased to present me in the most respectful terms to Madame Choteau to your brother and his family and those of McFourland and Mr. Gratiot.

I am yr's with great respect and Regard

WILLIAM H. HARRISON

AUG. CHOTEAU, Esq.

HARRISON TO TIPTON

NORTH BEND NEAR CLEVES 6th Dec. 1833

Tipton Mss. Ind. State Library

DEAR GENERAL

I have had your remarks on the articles which appeared in the *Kentucky Intelligencer* republished in the Hamilton *Intelligencer* of this state in which one of the forms was published some time last summer. My own reply will come out next Saturday. I thought it best to publish some documents which were furnished by Waller Taylor & others, when those infamous charges which the writer for the *Kentucky Intelligencer* has revived first made their appearance in print, and that they should be accompanied with some explanatory remarks from myself. This would have been unnecessary if your publication had been under your proper signature. At least it would have been so as far as my vindication was concerned.

I beg you to believe that I feel the warmest gratitude for the kind feeling you express for me in the conclusion of your piece. Indeed it has been a source of the greatest gratification to me amidst the persecutions I have suffered that I have rarely failed to find a friend when ever I meet with any one who has served under my command or with me under the command of others. An instance of the latter occurred this day. A man who now resides in Indiana & who served with me six years as a Corporal in the first U. S. Reg. Infy. under Generals St. Clair & Wayne, called on me. The moment I laid my eyes on him I knew him as the person who at the instant he was about to be executed I had the happiness to

stop the proceedings by handing to the officer of the day a pardon from the commanding general. He was then (1794) a very handsome young man of 22. His crime was that of having suffered his guard (which he commanded to take care of the cattle of the army) to kill one of them. He was pardoned from the gallantry he had displaied in the action at the rapids of the Miami of the lake a few weeks before & in which he had received a flesh wound. Never did I see a man brave death with more fortitude. Until the pardon was announced his countenance was marked by a sullen indignation which he felt as he informed me from the ignominious death which had been assigned to him. When his arms were loosened & the rope removed from his neck he leaped out of the waggon in which he had been placed, took a young girl (who was his mistress & who had stood weeping by the side of the waggon) in his arms kissed her & folding his arms regarded the laughter which the circumstances produced & the filing off of the army (which had been turned out on the occasion) with equal indifference. I believe it was proved on his trial that he was absent from his guard when they killed the animal but that could not be admitted as any extenuation of the crime by the Court martial. This man whose name is James Redding came to get from me a certificate of his service. Having heard of the probability of the soldiers of these early wars being placed upon the pension list. It appears to me that such ought to be the case. The troops who served with Harmer, St. Clair & Wayne underwent excessive hardships & received a very small compensation. The privates were allowed only $3 dollars per month. For a year an half I was Ensign on the pay of $18 per month & two rations and altho I fared miserably so high was every necessary that I could not live upon it & procure proper Regimentals. When I became the Aide-de-Camp of the Commanding General I received the pay & emoluments of a Major of the line which was $64 pay 4 rations & $12 for forage for month but even this was barely sufficient to keep me in clothing, horses, & equipments. I was obliged to keep two horses & such as were fit for an aid de camp could not be obtained for less than from $150 to $250. I say fit for an aid de camp, because none but those of great strength, activity & fleetness will answer for that service. The delivery of an order a minute

sooner or later might be productive of most serious consequences. I know indeed two instances in which the lives of officers bearing important orders were preserved by the fleetness and activity of their horses. At the seige of Fort Meigs on the eventful 5th of May, I had sent the squadron of dragoons under the command of Colo. Ball to cover the landing of Gen. Clay's troops above the fort. Seeing with my glass that Ball (in the plain on the River) was about to be attacked from the high ground, within rifle distance, by a body of Indians (my aid de camp being at that moment otherwise employed) I sent Quarter Master Eubank to direct Ball to ascend the hill & drive off the Indians whose position was on the flank of the route of Clay's troops to the Fort. Eubanks route was also along that plain which exposed him likewise to the fire of the Indians. To give him every possible chance I mounted him on one of my own horses. As I anticipated, the Indians began to fire on him before he got one fourth part of the way but being under full speed he was not hit. There ran a ditch through the plain which had been dug to drain a pond. Unluckily, Eubank came to the part which was widest and deepest. He attempted to make the leap but the horse frightened at the yellow clay bank of the opposite side suddenly wheeled & ran off. E. however stoped & turned him & giving him the whip & spur again brought him up & obliged him to take the leap, a monstrous leap it was.

The Indians were all the while firing at him but so extremely rapid was his movement & the Indians being much above him he escaped unhurt. The other instance to which I referred occurred to myself at the Battle of the Rapids of the Miami (not Maumee) of the lake. Whilst the advanced light troops were engaged with the Indians & the infantry of the line were forming Genl. Wayne sent me with an order to the dragoons on the right to charge for the purpose of checking the advance of the enemy until the line was formed. As the nearest way, I took the diagonal line in front of the Infantry. When I reached the point opposite the right battalion of the 1st sub legion they were engaged with the Indians who had driven in the light troops which covered that part of the line. I was thus exposed to the fire of both but my gallant steed bore me onward with such rapidity that I

escaped unhurt. If I fatigue you with these details, so uninteresting to all but those who were concerned in them you must attribute it to my having caught something of the garrulity of your constituent old Redding. My principal object in writing this letter is to enquire whether you know any thing of a Delaware chief called Nicoming who was with me at the battle of the Thames & an other called Little Beaver of the same tribe. The latter was the person (then a lad of 18 years old) who saved my life by killing the Indian who was sent by the beligerent Indians to assassinate me when I was with the army at Seneca on the Sandusky. My object in enquiring after these men is to get them to go with me on an expedition I meditate up the Missouri on to the frontiers of Mexico. Notwithstanding the great sacrifice of property I have made to pay my own debt & those for which I was bound as security I still owe about $12000 the greater part as endorser for Thomson Nebue of Cincinnati who is quite able to pay it if he had the inclination to do it. I have been making every exertion in my power to make my agricultural pursuits productive enough to pay my current expenses as well as the interest of my debts & a gradual reduction of the capital. I have not yet succeeded. I have, however a project in progress which may prevent the necessity of recurring to the scheme above mentioned. I am preparing an apparatus for kiln drying corn in the manner practiced at the Brandywine mills. If it succeeds as I expect, I can put my corn in a state either ground or unground to be transported to the distant markets without risk of spoiling & at considerable profit. If it does not succeed I can have recourse to the other project. But as such an undertaking must be commenced in May or June it is necessary to take some of the steps necessary to its success in the course of this winter. Two Indians such as I know Nicoming & the Beaver to be may be of great service to me on an expedition of the kind I contemplate. You will say perhaps that such an enterprise is not suitable to my advanced age. If my health should continue until the Spring as good as it now is I would have no hesitation in undertaking it. My constitution seems suited to exposure & hardship. But at any rate if my corn drying scheme fails I shall have no alternative. The Bank U. S. which is my creditor for all of the [illegible] debt must soon wind up its concerns. I have sold so much

of my property that should I be obliged to sell as much as would clear me of debt I should be left without the means of supporting the large family or more properly families which are dependent upon me. Various other schemes have been thought of, examined & abadoned. It would require a great deal of time to qualify me for the bar or for the practice of Physic altho I was a student of the latter for nearly two years before I entered the army. I never could succeed in the mercantile business even if I had capital to commence it. Such pursuits are neither congenial to my nature or the habits of my life. I might take one of the large Hotels in Cincinnati but the same objections oppose it, with the additional one of the burden it would impose upon my family. To the hunting & trapping expedition no objection can be made but the one above suggested viz personal hardships & personal hazard. These I was never accustomed to regard when I was in the service of my country neither should they form an obstacle to an enterprise having for its object the advantage of my family.

I have heard from my son Benjamin within a few days. He was then on the Big Horn River and was conducting a small trapping expedition farther west on his own account.

I send you enclosed the Hamilton paper containing the "Volunteer" & the Editors remarks on the publications of the *Kentucky Intelligencer*.

Present my respects to my friend Hendricks.

I am Dear General

Very Sincerely yr friend

W. H. HARRISON

P. S. A nephew of mine will be in Washington this winter on some business with Congress. He is from the county in Va with Gov. Tyler. I have enclosed a line of introduction to him. He is a highly respectable & amiable man. Gov. T will inform you of his arrival. I enclose you

Honble. Gen. JOHN TIPTON

HARRISON TO TIPTON

NORTH BEND 2nd May 1834

Tipton Mss. Ind. State Library

DEAR GENERAL

Your letter enclosing the article from the *Mechanic* reached me in due time. It found me in bad health, in bad spirit &

feeling more like a misanthrope than I have ever done in my life before, & therefore the malignant attack of "the friend to truth" did not make the impression upon me which it would have done at another time. I still however thought I might answer it & in the mean time determined to write to three of the gentlemen who were in my staff at the battle of the Thames to see if their recollections of the circumstances agreed with mine.

I have received answers from all & all coincide with me in their relation of the facts bearing on the case.

When you hear them you will be convinced that this attack (altho as you say it is a small affair,) is as malignant a one as any of those which for near 20 years have have been made upon me. I sent the extract you forwarded to Colo. Todd but if I recollect arright it asserts that "Comdr Perry & several other American Officers as well as British officers who knew Tecumthe saw and recognized his body." Now I will venture my head if Comdr Perry or any of the American officers or any American Soldier who was in the action had ever seen Tecumthe in their lives, myself only excepted. I would make the same venture that no officer of the British *Regular* army saw the body that was supposed to be T—e. For early in the morning after the action I sent them down the river to a farm house & only two of them were permitted to return again to our camp in charge of an officer to search for some baggage which had been plundered from them by the women of their own army. I was persuaded too that none of them heard any thing certainly about the death of T—e until after their arrival at Detroit & then only as a rumour. The British troops forming the left wing of their army could not see & could not possibly know what passed between the Indians & those who were opposed to them in the swamp on their right. I have said that no British officer of their Regular army had seen & recognized the body of Tecumthe & in this I am supported by Colo. Todd who was the Asst. Inspector Genl. of the army (& the Senior officer of that department present) & to whom the charge of the British officers were committed) & by Colo. O'Fallon & Major Chambers the former one of my regular Aids de Camp & the latter a volunteer Aid de camp. But neither of the two former nor myself (until I got the enclosed letter from Chambers) ever heard that he had taken Colo Baby a Mercht, of

Sandwich and a Militia Colonel to see the body. The cause of its not having been mentioned to me by Chambers is stated in his letter.

In the morning after the action I understood that a Canadian who had been captured in the retreat had asserted that T—e was killed I went to see this man & he told me that he had seen Tecumthe wounded mortally & that the Indians had wounded him. If I am not mistaken this man (the Canadian) died of a wound he had received. Another Canadian informed O'Fallon that he was told on the retreat that T—e was killed. He said he would easily recognize T—e & I directed O'F to take the man & examine the bodies which were left on the ground. He reported to me that the man recognized a body as T—e & declared that an other body which lay near it was the Prophets. But that body had two eyes. The Prophet was known to have but one & the Canadian acknowledged he was mistaken. Toward the evening of that day I took Comer. Perry & several other officers & went to examine the body which had been thus designated as T—e. I found it in the situation described by Chambers & was very much mortified & irritated. I was certain that I had seen the person before but I could not determine whether it was T—e or a Potawatimi Chief who had always been with him when ever I had seen him.

The face was much swollen & it appeared to have had a stroke with a Tomhawk or something else over the top of the head. O'Fallon says that he had on a cotton hunting shirt when he saw him. I think however the body was either naked or the shirt was rolled up above the breast when I saw it. The British writer says that he was "*distinguished* by wearing a leather shirt" now altho you were many hundred miles from the Thames at the time yet from your knowledge of the predeliction of the N. A. Indians for that article of dress you would no doubt give it as your opinion that out of the 1800 or 2,000 Indians who were in the action (or near it for Nine tenths of the whole number did not fire a gun) there must have been some hundreds who were thus "distinguished" greatly vexed & mortified at the mutalation of the body I would not suffer any person who had been attached to the British army to be called to examine it & was desirous that it should be attributed to *our* Indians who would I knew suffer no loss of honour by it. But yet I was morally

certain that they (our Indians) has *not* committed it. I left the army either that E—g or early the next morning & proceeded to Detroit with Comdr. Perry to make arrangements for an expedition to the upper lakes. I prepared my official dispatch on my arrival but as the death of Tecumthe still remained in a great degree uncertain I did not mention it. I was how ever morally certain that he was killed but as one account states his being wounded & taken off I was unwilling to run the risk of having my report contradicted by the best evidence viz. that of his presenting himself alive to his [illegible] Provost. My dispatch was submitted to Govr. Shelby for his correction if there was any error. He made none & declared that ample justice was done to all concerned. If I had mentioned the probability of T—e's death I could not have with any sort of justice attributed it to any Individual nor indeed could I have determined the *Corps* by which it had been done. From my *then* information I should have attributed it to the Infantry, because I knew that they had encountered the Indians near to the spot. As I found them hotly engaged with the Indians when I repaired from the right to the left of our line. It was not my intention that Johnson's Corps should come in contact with the Indians nor did I know until I saw the statement in McAffee's history to what extent it had done so. I knew indeed that Colo. J—n had been wounded by Indians for he told me so & added that he had killed one of them, when I visitted him shortly after the action. I have been endeavouring to recollect when it was that I first heard that it was supposed that T—e was killed by Colo. Johnson. I am satisfied that it was not until my return to Ohio in the Febry. following & I believe not until some time in the spring. Chambers (who went immediately home after the action) says that he is satisfied that he did not hear it for several months & so say both Todd & O'Fallon. The latter says that "when he returned to Ky after the war was over he was asked this question "whether if Colo. Johnson did kill an Indian there was not more probability that it was T—e than any other. And he avowed affirmatively" Now this is precisely the ground that I always took. When ever the circumstance was mentioned in my presence I always referred to the fact that Colo. Jn. had informed me immediately after the action that he had killed an Indian & before he could have heard that T—e was killed & having heard from

good authority that T—e had said to Genl. Proctor a few days before at Chatham Creek that he was determined to conquer or die. (His expression was "Here Genl. Harrison or I shall lay our bones") I concluded that it was most probable that seeing from the position of Colo. Jn that he was the Comdr. of the party which was about to assail him T—e had singled him out rushed upon him & fell in the contest. This opinion I have always expressed. The object of the author of the "friend to truth" is to fix upon me the crime of having withheld the information of the death of Tecumthe from enmity to or jealousy to Colo. J—n. Far from feeling any enmity toward him I was upon the most intimate terms of friendship with him. There was not indeed an individual in the army for whom I felt a warmer regard. And as to jealousy in the name of common sense of what could I be jealous? Of his bravery? No because I have done him in that respect ample justice. None but Colo. Daviess' friends & this Knave & fool who dares to assume the garb of "truth" would ever have thought of the Commdr. in chief of an army being jealous of the gallantry of a field officer. But whatever might have been my feelings I certainly never heard it suggested that Colo. J—ns was the arm by which T—e came to his death until some months after. Indeed I am certain not until I had resigned my commission in the army. None of J-ns. corps knew T—e nor did T—e or any of his Indians know Johnson. Of course it could only be assertained that the latter killed the former by an investigation & a comparison of circumstances & this was not done until after the campaign. The British officers of course could have known nothing of the matter as they were in an other part of the field & had sufficient occupation in the action & no opportunity of making inquiries afterward.

Whatever information in relation to the affair which they gave to the British historian they must have acquired while they were prisoners in Kenty. If truth really was the object of the writer who made this attack upon me ought he not to have been struck with the circumstances that none of the Western historian of the war nor any one else in the Western Country had blamed me for not mentioning the death of Tecumthe. No less than two of the historys of the war were written by members of Johnsons Corps. One by one of his Captains (McAffee now our Charge des affairs at Bogota)

& the other by a Mr. Brown of New York who served as a volunteer in the Regt. & yet both of them altho the avowed friends of Colo. Johnson speak of my *whole* conduct with marked approbation. But I am tired of this subject. All my friends here have strongly protested against my appearing in print in answer to this vile slanderer whom I take to be the same who some years ago sent an annonimous article to the Editor of the New Yk. *Comml. Adverr.* in which it was said that when our troops got near the enemy I was no where to be found & that Colo. J—n made all the arrangements for the action. I strongly suspect that I could guess who was the author of both. I must enjoin it upon you my dear Gen. not to publish this letter *nor anything that is in it in any manner or shape.*

I have been obliged to abandon my intended trip to the West. In Febry. I was preparing to go to N Orleans to obtain through the assistance of a valued friend I have there the means of carrying my project into execution when I was arrested by a violent illness from the effects of which I have not to this moment recovered & to my astonishment & great regret my son Benjamin returned from the Rocky Mountains soon after. In his trip he contrived to squander at least $1,000 in a maner totally unaccountable. Since I commenced this letter my son Scott returned from N. O. On his way down he lost one of his boats & nearly the whole cargo. It was sunk by the falling of trees & it was with no small risk that him & Benjamin & two others that were in the boat saved their lives. Our entire loss is about $700. I had [illegible] only $400 & the cargo would have sold readily for $1100. In my advanced age I am not a favorite of Fortune. But come what may, neither to her frowns nor to the peltings & persecutions I have experienced & may still experience from those from whom I had a right to expect different treatment, will make me succumb. I will, to use the language of the Tennessee Colonel, endeavor still to "go ahead" altho in my exertions to do so like the boy on the sleet I go two steps backward for one that I go forward.

But amidst all my difficulties I have a consolation in believing that I have a few faithful friends & there is none amongst them whose disinterested attachments I value more than yours

Accept my best wishes

W. H. HARRISON

P. S. Colo. Todd has just written to me that he intends to answer "the friend of truth" & that he will forward it to you to be inserted in the *Mechanic*. I mention this in confidence. He will answer effectually.

Return me Chamber's letter.

Honbl. Genl. TIPTON

HARRISON TO COMMITTEE

CINCINNATI 23rd Octr 1835

Lasselle Mss. Ind. State Library

GENTLEMEN

When I had the honour to receive your letter of the 17th August last inviting me to participate in the celebration of the anniversary of the battle of Tippecanoe on the spot where it was fought I was apprehensive that it would not be in my power to attend, ardently as it was my wish to do so. I determined however to delay my answer for some time in the hope that something might occur to enable me to gratify my inclinations by attending without violating any obligations of duty in relation to the office I hold in this county. I am now however reluctantly constrained to abandon the idea. The court of which I am clerk is now in session with no probability of its adjournment until after the day of the celebration shall have passed. All that remains therefore is to offer you my thanks for the honour you have done me by the invitation & particularly for the manner in which you have been pleased to speak of my public services.

The attendance of the youth of our country upon such a celebration on the spot which was the scene of the patriotic devotion which it is the object to honour, cannot but be productive of the greatest advantage. It will inspire them with the feeling and sentiments which annimated Daviess & Spencer Owen & Warrick under the influence of which they abandoned their firesides their business & their families to maintain the honour and interest of their country amidst perils & dangers which they had clearly forseen & which they determined to disregard. Their fall & all the attendant circumstances sufficiently prove that this was their determination.

I see signed to your letter Gentlemen names intimately connected with the event you intend to celebrate. One of them

particularly, which will always be associated with the glory of the achievement. To those who are thus situated the recollection of this circumstance should constitute an additional motive for the discharge of all the duties which appertain to the character of the patriot & citizen soldier.

I am Gentlemen with Great Respect
Your Hum Sert

W. H. HARRISON

Messrs SPEAR S. TIPTON
STANISLAIS LASSELLE
&
DANIEL SPARKS

Committee for the celebration of the battle of Tippecanoe

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